Sandwich Monthly
Men MS Discipline
Women
1672 - 1774
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND NEYM

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Sandwich Monthly Mtg
Discipline

1672 - 1774
NEW ENGLAND YEARLY
MEETING OF FRIENDS

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Christian & Brotherly Advices

Given forth from time to time

By the

Yearly Meeting

in

London

Alphabetically Digested

under

Proper Heads.

A Table of the Several Heads

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N:1. Concerning Appeals.

1727

1727 Committee to be yearly chosen to Judge of all appeals

This Meeting Agrees, That for the time to come, A Committee be yearly Chosen at the opening thereof immediately after the Clerk is chosen, to Judge of the fitness of Receiving all appeals that shall be offered, And to hear all appeals which they shall Judge come duly before them, and report their Opinion thereof, in order for the Approbation Rejection or Amendment of this Meeting: and that no Deputy of any City or County from which an appeal shall come be Admitted a Member of that Committee in Relation to such appeals.

Time Limitted

And Whereas it is inconvenient that the time of Appeals should be Unlimitted; It is therefore Agreed by this Meeting, That if any Person or Persons shall think him her or themselves, Injured or Aggrieved by the Monthly two weeks or Other Meeting, of which he she or they were a Member or Members, Such Person or Persons may then appeal to the Quarterly Meeting to which the said Monthly twoweeks or other Meeting doth belong. Provided notice be given of such Intended appeal, in three months after such Judgment given, And the appeal be Lodged in such Quarterly meeting within Six months after such Notice.

from monthly or TwoWeeks to Quarterly Meetings

from Quarterly to Yearly Meetings

And if any Person or Persons be Dissatisfied with the Judgment of any Quarterly Meeting they may Appeal from such Judgment to the Yearly Meeting, he she or they giving notice to the said Quarterly Meeting of their Intention to appeal within Six months after the Judgment of such Quarterly Meeting be given; and such appeal be brought to the next Yearly Meeting, if it may with Conveniency, or to the next following after it.

And if any Monthly TwoWeeks, or other Meeting Do not belong to any Quarterly Meeting

But

Appeals

1727

from monthly or other to the yearly Meeting directly

But are immediate Members of the Yearly Meeting That then Persons appealing from the Judgment of such Meeting, shall give notice to the said Meeting of their Intentions to appeal, within three months after the Judgment given, and shall Lodge his her or their appeal in the succeeding Yearly Meeting, if it may Conveniently be done; if not, in the Yearly Meeting that shall next follow after it.

persons not pursuing these Directions Excluded

And that all Persons Testified against, not pursuing the Directions before given with respect to the time of giving notice, and Lodging their appeals shall be excluded from any Right of appealing afterwards.

1728

1728

method for Choosing the Committee

In order to put the Directions of last Yearly Meeting into Practice, respecting appeals, it is now agreed that Twelve Cities or Counties as they stand Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book, do Each for themselves name one of their Members, who are to Constitute that Committee for this Year, Except as before Excepted; and in Like manner next Year Twelve Cities or Counties as they Do stand next Alphabetically in the Correspondent Book, are each for themselves to name one of their Members to Constitute that Committee under the same Exception, and so Successively every Year, until all the Cities and Counties have had their Nomination, Which being finished, the Correspondent Book is to be begun Again: — And that the Service of this Committee may be as little Burdensome as Posible to the Friends to whose Lot it shall happen, it is Desired & Directed, that all appeals which shall be brought from any Person or place shall be Lodged with the Clerk of this Meeting for the time being, at the furthest in the Afternoon of the Sixth Day of the week in the sitting of the Meeting.

appeals to be Delivered on Sixth Day &c.

And it is appointed, that at the rising of the Meeting in the same afternoon on the Sixth Day

of

1728 of the Week the Clerk for the time being shall read over the names of the Friends Chosen on the Committee of appeals, and then acquaint them that he hath one or more appeals (if such there be) and Deliver the same unto them; requesting them to proceed thereon According to the advice of this Meeting: and that any Seven of the said Committee so Chosen shall have Power to act according to the direction of the above Mentioned Minute: And it is also the agreement of this Meeting, that no Member of any City or County against whom an appeal may be made, be admitted a Member of the said Committee.

any Seven to Act

1733

1733 This Meeting taking into their serious Consideration some inconveniencies that may attend the Nominating Persons to hear and Judge of the fitness or unfitness of appeals brought before this Meeting, Do agree, that for the time to Come no Friend of any County from whence or against whom Such Appeals may Come, shall be Deemed proper to be Nominated thereto; But that the Meeting proceed to a Nomination of other Persons in the next Counties; and that such Counties as are Omitted for the reason aforesaid be first Called on next Year.

no Friend of any County from or against whom any appeal comes to be Named

1736

1736 And Dear Friends, in the Spirit of the Gospel, Which is Peace on Earth and good Will to all men, Labour to maintain the Discipline of the Church Wherein you will be favoured with Wisdom prudently to Determine affairs that may Come before You, & be Instrumental to prevent many troublesome Appeals from coming to this Meeting which tend to prolong it and give Uneasiness to Friends: And We Earnestly Desire all Friends who are proper Members of the Society, Especially such as are Qualified for service, would be Careful to attend all Meetings for the Discipline of the Church.

to prevent appeals coming

See arbitrations, anno 1720, page 13.

Whereas

Appeals

1745

1745 Whereas it is Apprehended that the minute Concerning Appeals, made in 1727, may Leave room for some to Conclude, That on due notice being once given by the Appeallant or appellants to the Meeting against which he she or they may appeal, that he she or they may be at Liberty, without any further notice to bring his her or their appeal either to the Yearly Meeting Succeeding or that which follows; This Mee=ting Orders, to prevent Disputes that may arise on that head, That if any Appellant or Appellants Do not bring His Her or their appeal to the Yearly Meeting Ensuing Due notice once given, that then if he she or they Continue their Appeal, notice shall be repeated in writing to the Meeting against which he she or they may Appeal, at least three months preceeding the Yearly Meeting.

Notice of Appeals to be given

And it is Agreed by this Meeting to prevent its being Troubled with a Repetition of Appeals, That no Appeal shall be Received a second time which hath been once Determined here.

No Appeal to be a second time

6

N: 2 Concerning Arbitrations

1684

in what Cases Arbitrators are to be Chosen

Agreed, That the Choosing of Arbitrators is Proper in Cases of Differences about a mans property; But in Differences about Religious matters, as Schism, &c The rule of Christ is to be Observed if Thy Brother shall Trespass against thee &c Matt: 18; 15. 16. 17 the Church being Judge.

1692

1692 to Choose Arbitrators or to Submit to the Choice of the Mon: Meeting

Advised, that in all Cases of Controversie and Difference, the Persons Concerned therein, Either Speedily compose the Difference between themselves Or make Choice of some Faithful Unconcerned Friends to Determine the same, and they to stand to their Determination, Or Otherwise if they cannot agree upon the Choice, to Submit to the Monthly Meetings Choice of Certain Persons Meet to Inspect and Determine the Controversy, And to stand to their award and final Determination thereof: that such Controversys may not be Continued to Cause a stink & Reproach, for they are a great shame and Scandal. — And all Controversys to be speedily ended that care be taken for the speedy ending of all Controversys & Differences among Friends; And all Friends to take heed of being parties with one or another for the prolonging thereof. And such persons as refuse to submit to truths Order, or to hear the Church of Christ, are to be Disowned and Testified against, according to Christ's Doctrine on that behalf.

Such as refuse are to be Disowned

1693

1693 in a Doubtful point in Law

Advised that all Differences happening in Personal or Temporal Occasions be speedily Ended According to the Advice given in our last Yearly Meeting Epistle; And if any Doubtful point in Law be in the Case, then both parties may advise with some well knowing in the Law;

for

1693 For if any Lust to be Contentious we have no such Custom in the Churches of Christ.

1696

1696 Advised that no Friends shall go from the Order of Truth, and former advice, to Sue one another at Law; But by themselves or by Reference, that all Differences among Friends be speedily Ended, and not Prolonged or Delayed.- And Dear Friends shun all Occasions of Strife & Discord, and take care to make a speedy end of all Differences that are or may happen among your selves, as hath been often Advised, and that according to the holy Apostles Doctrine; Read 1. Cor 6.c. v. 1 to 8

not to Sue another at Law

1697

1697 Whereas, it some times happeneth to the hurt of Truth, and grief of many Friends, that Differences do arise amongst some Professing Truth about outward things, it is therefore by this Meeting thought Convenient and advised, That when any Friend or Friends shall hear of any such Difference betwixt any Friends in that meeting to which they Do Belong That they forthwith speak to and tenderly advise the Persons between whom the Difference is to make a speedy end thereof; and if that Friend or Friends do not Comply with their advice that then they take to them one or two Friends more, and again Exhort them to End their Difference and if they or Either of them refuse, then to let them know that it is the advice and Counsel of Friends, that they should each choose an Equal Number of Indifferent impartial and Judicious Friends to hear and speedily Determine the same and that they do bind themselves to Stand to their award and Determination, Or the award and Determination of the major part of them, that shall be made and signed by the arbitrators, or the award and arbitration made and signed by Umpire if there be one agreed unto.

Friends between whom any Difference happens to be advised to choose Arbitrators

Also this Meeting doth advise that if any

Person

1697 Person professing the Truth among us, and Esteemed a Friend shall refuse speedily to end the Difference or refer it as before advised Complaint be made of that Person or Persons unto the Monthly Meeting to which he doth belong: and if after admonition he shall refuse so to refer his case that then the Meeting Do Testify against such a Person and Disown him to be of our Society; until he shall comply with the Equal methods & agreements of our Society: and by such his Compliance doth Declare that he is for peace and Doth seek and desire it: and when any Person so refusing is Testified against by the Meeting and Disowned, the other person may have his Liberty to seek his Remedy against him at Law.

such as refuse to end their Difference or to refer it are to be Dealt with

the person Disowned may be sued at Law

And if any Friends that shall be Chosen to hear and Determine any such Difference as aforesaid after they have accepted thereof, and the parties Differing are become bound to stand to their Determination shall Decline & refuse to stand and act as arbitrators that then such Person or Persons so refusing be required to give their Reasons of their Refusal unto the Monthly Meeting to which they belong and if that Meeting shall not Esteem those Reasons sufficient Justly to excuse them, then the Meeting to Press them to stand to what they have accepted.

arbitrators not to Decline acting after they have accepted it

And if after such Admonition, they Shall Continue to Refuse to stand as Arbitrators, That then the Meeting do Testify against them or either of them as such as are not subject to the Just rules of our Society neither ought to be admitted thereunto, until he or they Condemn and Retract the same.

continuing to Decline standing; To be testified Against

And it is the Advice of this Meeting that persons Differing about Outward things, do as little as may be trouble Publick Ministring Friends with being Arbitrators in such Cases

to avoid Chosing ministers for Arbitrators

And

Arbitrations.

1697

all persons to perform the award made

And that all Persons Differing be Advised by the Monthly meeting to which they belong, when their Cases are refered, and Judgment & award made, Signed and given thereupon as aforesaid, to stand to and perform the said award, which they have bound themselves to perform: and if any shall refuse so to do, That then the Monthly Meeting to which such Person doth belong, upon notice thereof to them given, shall Admonish him thereunto and if after admonition he persist or refuse, then the Monthly Meeting to Testify against him as before.

No friend to sue another at Law

To Conclude it is the Sense & Judgment of this Meeting that if any Person Professing Truth shall arrest, sue or Implead at Law, any other Person Professing Truth before he hath Proceeded in the methods herein before recommended; That such Person doth therein Depart from the Principle of Truth, and the known way thereof, and acts Contrary thereunto, and ought to be Dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to therefor, And if he shall not give satisfaction to the Meeting, for such his Disorderly Proceeding by Condemning it and himself therein, that then he be Disowned by the Meeting therefor.

1705

1705

Meetings to take Care that Differences be Speedily Ended

If any Difference is Depending or shall arise between any Persons Professing Truth amongst us, it is Advised and Desired that Effectual Care, in the Wisdom of God, may be taken by Friends of the Meeting or Meetings to which such Persons belong, to put a full and speedy end thereto as has been formerly Advised — particularly in the year 1697

1720

1720

Minute of 1697 Explained

The report of the Friends appointed on the minute of 1697, Received with an Explanation Which was Several times Read and finally accepted by the Meeting.

the

1720

The report & Explanation aforesaid, are as followeth.

The Report

It is the Sense & Judgment of this Committee, that the minute of 1697, relating to Arbitrations is Consistant with the practice of our Ancient Friends, and very fit for a General Rule for the Proceedure of Friends on such Occasions.

name to be Disowned without tender Consideration of the Circumstance

Yet Since General Rules admit of Exceptions or Explanations, and divers Friends having Objected some particular Cases wherein they apprehend Difficullies may arise (which yet we apprehend is sufficiently provided for by the Discretionary Power vested in the respective Monthly and Quarterly Meetings) Yet in Condescention to those Friends, we Declare That as no Persons ought to be disowned without tender Considerations of every Circumstance attending such Cases, and Due Admonition by the Monthly Meetings to the Parties Concerned, So we tenderly Advise that the Several Meetings Proceed with the Utmost Circumspection therein.

Liberty to Appeal

And that if any Person so Denied by any Monthly Meeting shall apprehend He is not Justly Dealt with, He hath his Liberty, as in all other Cases, amongst us, to Appeal to the Quarterly Meeting Who after through Examination of the Case, and all the Circumstances And Proceedure attending it, Shall proceed to Confirm or reverse the same, as they in the fear and Wisdom of God shall see Cause.

And Whereas Sometimes it so happens, that Persons under our Profession have proved so base and Unworthy, as when they have run themselves into Debt, to Endeavour fraudulently & hastily to Remove themselves, or their Effects, to prevent Justice, whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been Deprived of an opportunity of the Common method of Friends Specified in the minute aforesaid; it is hereby Declared, that the last paragraph of the said minute which prohibits Friends to sue or Arrest one another &c.

Is

Arbitrations.

1720

Is not intended to prevent such evil Persons in those practices from being Dealt with by a Legal Process, as the nature of the Case may require, of which Circumstances the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, so it is not to be Doubted but they will do Justice to the parties Concerned therein.

Whereas upon the Dissatisfaction of Several Friends with some parts of the minute of this Meeting anno 1697, relating to Arbitrations of Differences about outward things there were some Friends appointed to Read hear & Consider the said minute, and the Dissatisfaction therewith and make Report; And Accordinly the greater part of the Friends appointed for that Service did bring in their Report, which being Read did not prove so generally to the Satisfaction of Friends as could have been Desired: Now this Meeting being Fervently Desirous, that the Universal Peace of the Church, and every Sincere Member thereof, may as much as posible be preserved, and all Occasion of Uneasiness, as much as may be, Removd, Doth accept & Receive the report above mentioned, With this further Explanation,

That so much of the minute of 1697, before mentioned as doth relate simply to the entering in to Bonds, and so far as Arbitrations may be refused, on account of Disputes & Questions in Law relating to Executors or Trustees; in both these Cases, that there be a particular and Special Regard had to the nature and Circumstances of things; It not being either now nor at the time of making the said minute, the intent of this meeting to lay any unwarrantable Burthen upon any Brother, nor upon the Church of God.

Advised, that Due care be taken that all offences Trespasses and Differences be speedily ended and

1720 Composed in Gods Wisdom according to Gospel Order among us, either by mutual forgiveness, Christian Counsel or Just Arbitration as the case may require, and safely admit or allow; and the Choice of Arbitrators & Umpires, be of such Just Impartial men as neither party can Justly except against but both agree to their Choice.

1724

1724 Speedy Ending of Differences by prudent and Just Arbitrations again recommended.

1725

1725 Former Advice hath by this Meeting been given, With regard to the Honour of God, and his Truth, that the Religious Reputation of our Society might be Preserved from Blemish and all Just Occasion of Scandal; and which we now again Earnestly press & Desire, That all Friends Avoid as much as possible Occasions of Difference One with Another. But if Notwithstanding such care, any Difference shall happen to arise, that then the Friends of that Meeting in the Compass where of any such shall happen, take timely care to put an end thereunto by advising & Exhorting those between whom Difference may happen to refer the matter of their Difference to Impartial & proper Arbitrators; Which may be a very likely means to avoid the Scandal of going to Law one with Another, and to shew forth to the world that we Love one Another, which is a Distinguishing mark of being Christ's Disciples.

all Occasion of Difference to be avoided

Friends to put an End to Differences

to avoid the Scandal of going to Law

1737

1737 And we do again remind you, that Friends may be every where careful to get all Differences about outward things Speedily Composed either between themselves or by Arbitrators without Troubling Monthly or Quarterly Meetings with Such affairs.

And it would be well that Friends were at all times ready to submit their Differences even with Persons

not

1737 not of our Perswasion to Arbitrators rather than Contend at Law.

1744.

1744 See Law, page, 138.

Arbitrations

Books.

N.o 3. Concerning Books

1672

1672 a Committee to Correct Books

A Committee of ten Friends appointed to see that Books be Carefully Corrected and that none be Printed but by Friends Order.

The Printer to give three or more of them notice when any Book is to be Printed.

That no old Books be sent to the Counties unsent for
That no second Edition be Printed ~~without Order~~.
That the Printer send those Ordered to the Counties before any be sent abroad.

1673.

1673 see 1698

Agreed that the Quarterly Meetings return the Printer his money once a Quarter, for his further En=
=couragement & Assistance to Carry on his Business.

1674

1674

Agreed that whatever Book is for time to come writ by any Friend in Scotland, and Printed here, they shall take off four hundred of each Book toward Defraying the Charge of Printing them.

1679

1679 to be given by the Meeting for Sufferings p. 26. 28. 29.

Books to be Delivered to the King and his Council the Parliament, and other Persons Majestrates and Governours with in this Nation, as also in foreign parts beyond the Seas, as the Meeting for Sufferings — (Direct ind.) shall from time to time, appoint.

p. 26. & p. 28. 1706

Agreed that the Meeting for Sufferings for the time being, Do for the future take care to the Inspecting Ordering and Regulating the press, and Printing of Books: — And in whatever matter Relating to Printing of Books, the Country Friends find themselves aggrieved that they write to the said Meeting Who are to redress the same.

Books

1680

1680 Agreed that the matter of Books and Printing: and method of sending them as well p. 25. within this Nation as foreign parts, be wholly left and referr'd to the Meeting for Sufferings in London

1691

1691 This Meeting Agrees, for the taking off and spreading Friends Books for the service of Truth That such a Number of Friends Books, as shall be hereafter Printed by their Approbation (excepting Collections of Books be taken off by Each Quarterly Meeting, as will only amount to two Books of a sort to Each Monthly Meeting, provided the two Books do not both exceed one Shilling in price; and if any one Book be above six pence price then but one of that sort to Each Monthly Meeting who may send for as many more as they have Occasion for or Desire.— We Understand there are about One Hundred and fifty. one Monthly Meetings in England and Wales.— And that the said Books be sent by the Several Corres=pondents in London, or by their Order to the Correspon=dents of Each County, who are Desired to send up the money for the Books when received, to the Friends that are Correspondents in London, and to be Diligent in Spreading Friends Books for Truth's Service.

two of a sort of Each and one of sort above to Each Monthly Meeting to be paid 27 Monthly Meetings

1692

1692 Agreed that those that print for Friends deliver to the Meeting for Sufferings for the Several Correspond=ents of the Counties in England and Wales such a number See 1695 of Books as was agreed unto last Meeting, within one month after printed, which are two of a sort for Each Monthly Meeting not exceeding Six pence for Book, and one of a sort above six pence pr Book.

and

1692

Books to be kept in each Quarterly and monthly meeting

And it is Advised by the Meeting, that one Book at Least of a sort that shall be printed, except Collections, be kept in each Monthly or Quarterly Meeting for the Service of Friends and Truth, as there shall be occasion for the future: and this to be recommended to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings.

1695

See 1695

Two of a sort under 2/6 one of a sort above to each Monthly Meeting. 1697

This Meeting Agrees, That it may be Recommended from this Meeting to each Monthly Meeting in the Counties to take off two Books of a sort newly Printed to each Monthly Meeting, under Two Shillings and Six pence, for one year from this time and one to a Meeting that is above, and that they be sent into the Counties Quarterly, about two weeks before each Quarter Day, by those Printers that Print them: And that one Book of a sort be kept in Each Quarterly Meeting in the Several Counties.

1697

1697

Spreading friends Books

Friends in the Several Counties in England are Desired to be Diligent to spread Friends Books, which are Answers to Adversaries and to get them Expos'd to Publick, where Adversaries Books are sold, that the Service of them may be Answered; and the Printers are to be spoken to, to send Down the Books in Due time and not Delay them till the Service be partly over.

This Meeting Understanding that the minute of 1695 expired in 1696, with respect to Printed Books of high price, Its Desired that all Books that are writ by such that are in Unity with Friends that was then agreed to be accepted by the Monthly Meetings to which they are sent. And that each Monthly Meeting for the future Do accept of two Books of a sort that Do not Exceed Two Shillings p.r Book, till this Meeting Doth Order Otherwise.

Two of a sort not exceeding 2/ per Book

Books

1698.

1698 — Printers accounts to be cleared Yearly

This Meeting Adviseth, That the Bookseler's Accounts be Cleared Yearly of such Books they send, and Friends approve of; and that Each Quarterly Meeting Preceeding the Yearly Meeting give Directions to such Member they make Choice of to attend the Yearly Meeting, to see it Done; and the Printers to give timely Notice thereof to Each Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting.

1702

1702 — Friends to read over books in answer to adversaries

Agreed to Recommend it to the Quarterly and Meetings in the Several Counties, to appoint some Judicious Friends to read over such Books that are Published in vindication of Truth, and the Doctrine of Friends, against Adversaries; in order that they may Both better Understand the Controversies, and be prepared to vindicate the Doctrine of Friends and Obviate Objections.

1706

1706 — Morning Meeting to acquaint the Meeting for Sufferings

Agreed, that when the Morning Meeting of Ministring Friends Do see Cause or Necessity for to Dispose of Books in Truth's Service Gratis or freely that they acquaint the Meeting for Sufferings therewith, both as to the Quantity and Charge, for their Compliance before Disposed of for that Service.

1709

1709 — North Britain

Agreed, that North Brittain be Desired to send up an account to the Meeting for Sufferings, how many Monthly Meetings they have; And its proposed that they take off two Books of a sort for each Monthly Meeting.

1710

1710

This Meeting Desires the Meeting for sufferings to take care that the Several Quarterly Meetings

in

1710 p. 27. 28

in England and Wales do take off and pay for all such Friends Books, sent Pursuant to the Yearly Meetings Repeated Agreement.

1732

1732 see 1679. 1680

It is Agreed, That the Meeting for Sufferings Do Distribute in such manner and to such parts of the World, as they think proper the Writings of such Friends as have been Published by the Consent of the Morning Meeting.

1735

1735 Copies of Books

The Meeting for Sufferings have Invested John Davis, Samuel Arnold, Richard Hows & Joseph Olive, with the Right of such Copies of Friends Books as now are, or shall hereafter be, Printed for the Use of this Meeting; But this Meeting Desires that the Meeting for Sufferings do take Care that the said Friends may not have it in their Power to possess the said Copies but only in Trust for this Meeting.

Books

N°4 Concerning Certificates

1694

1694 Desired That all Friends who Remove from any Part of England or Wales into Ireland, may have Cer=
=tificates from their Respective Monthly Meetings to which they Belong, That They may be Informed of what Repute they are, as to Truth and Friends; and also that no Unnecessary Charge be Brought upon Friends there.

to have Certificates on removing into Ireland

or from one monthly or Quarterly Mett^g to another

Friends Removing from the Compass of One Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to Another to have Certificates. See poor. page, 235, 236, 238, 240, 241, 243.

1737 And See Removals & Settlements in 1737 —— p: 287, 288, 290.

Friends that Travel in the Work of the Minis=
=try, to have Certificates. See Preachers. p: 253, 254, 256.

1745

1745 See Preachers page 259.

1748

1748 See Marriage, page — 155.

The following are adopted as Rules of our Yearly
That when Publick Friends travel
so far out of the Verge of the Quarterly meeting
they belong to that they request the Elders of their
Respective meeting with their Concern for their
Advice before they move it to the Preparative
Meeting in order for a Certificate from the
Monthly meeting and also when they have it in
their minds to Travel out of the Verge of the
Meeting that they Proceed in like manner
and

Certificates

1772

And take a Certificate from the Quarterly
Meeting they belong to Concurring with the
Monthly meeting Therein
And that any Person Coming from one monthly
Meeting to another in order to Propose their
Intentions of marriage that they bring a Certi
ficate with them to the first monthly meeting
from the monthly meeting where they belong
Signifying their Parents or Guardians Consent
if they have any as well as their Conversation
And Disinclangement with other Persons

1827.

Children

N.° 5. Concerning Children

1688

1688 We do Intreat and Desire you all, our dear Friends Brethren and Sisters, That are Parents & Governours of Families, That Ye Diligently Lay to heart your work and Calling in your Generation for the Lord, and the Charge Committed to You, not only in becoming good Examples to the Younger Sort, But also to use your Power in your own Families, in the Educating your Children and Servants in Modesty, Sobriety and in the fear of God, Curbing the Extravagant humour in the young Ones when it doth appear, and not to Indulge it and allow of it For you are Set in your Families as Judges for God, and it is you that must give an account of the Power Committed to you: And when you see a Libertine and Wanton Spirit appear in your Children and Servants that Lusteth after the vain Customs & Fashions of the World, either in Dressings Habits or outward Adornings, and Craves your Assistance and Allowance, without which it cannot get forward while they are under your Government Oh! then look to your selves, and Discharge your Trust for God, and for the good of their Souls, Exhorting in Meekness and Commanding in Wisdom, that so you may Minister and reach to the Witness, and help them over their Temptations, in the Authority of Gods Power, and when they feel themselves helped and Delivered, Their Souls will Bless God for you, and you will reap the Comfort of your Labour.

Parents to be good Examples to Children p. 40. 41 44. 46. 48

Not to Indulge them

1689

1689 And Dear Friends, for the Lords sake, Exercise your Christian care for the Education of your Children in the Fear of God, and Plainness & Simplicity of the Truth both in Language and Habits.

Children

1690

1690 This meeting Adviseth, That Friends may be careful not to train up their Children in the Worlds ways Names of days & Months, and Language & Fashions, and that Friends may be careful of Friends Children to Provide School-Masters and Mistreſses that are Friends, where they are capeable, and not to send them to the Worlds Schools, to Corrupt them by Learning Heathen Au=thors, and the names of their Gods; But to take care that they may train them up in the Language of Truth, and that Plainneſs which becomes the Truth, and to be good Examples to them, and not to say you to their Child; Nor Suffer their Substance to be bestowed on their Children to furnish them with such things that are not becoming our Profeſsion.

not to train them up in the Worlds ways &c

put them to School-Masters who are Friends

p. 39. 41

And Dear Friends, it is our Christian and Earnest Advice & Counsel to all Friends Concerned, so far as they are able or may be capable, to provide School-Mas=ters and Mistreſses who are Faithful Friends, to teach and Instruct their Children, and not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the Corrupt ways, manners, Fashions & Language of the World, and of the Heathen in their Authors; and names of the Heathen=ish Gods & Goddeſses tending greatly to Corrupt and Alienate the minds of Children into an Averſioneſs or Opposition against the Truth, and the Simplicity of it, But to take care that you train up your Chil=dren in the good Nurture Admonition and fear of the Lord, in that Plainneſs and Language which becomes Truth; And Parents Masters &c, to be good Ex=amples to them in a Sober & Godly Conversation and Plainneſs of Speech, not to Uſe the word you, or ye, to a Child or Servant &c; nor Suffer your Substance to be Bestowed on your Children to furnish them

to provide School Masters & Mistreſses who are Friends

p. 39. 41.

with

1690 with such things as tend to Pride, and to lift them up in Vanity, or affect them with the vain Fashions of the World.

1691

1691 That Friends be Examplary to their Children in Plain=
=ness of Language, Habit & Deportment and train them
p. 39. 40. up therein that Modesty and Sobriety may be Countenan=
to be train=ed up in Plainness &c =ced, and the Fear of the Lord take place & Increase among them. See more in the same printed Epistle. —

See plainness, page, 223.

1692

Being Sensible how Incident Youth is to be Cor=
1692 =rupted, and how liable to Corrupt & hurt one another by evil Example and Liberty; It is Earnestly Requested that all Parents among Friends take all Godly and Christian Care in the Education of their Children, and be good Examples to them, and not to allow them in any thing that may Gratify a vain mind, in immodest Apparel or foolish garbs, or other Extravagancies tend=ing to their hurt, and the reproach of our holy Profession, and incuring Gods Displeasure & Judgment which stands against the Pride of Life & haughtiness, But Sincerely to Use their best Endeavours to train them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord, in Sobriety Modesty and Plainness of Apparel Language & Conversation, as Becometh Our holy Profession and Christian Religion.

1696

1696 Agreed, That it be Recommended to Friends to be
p. 39. 40. very Careful in the Education of their Children and to see that it be as much as Possible by Honest Friends, that while Children are getting Learning by such that are not Friends they are

often

1696

often hurt by having such things Instilled or like seed Dropt into them that have taken root to the hurt of Children, and should therefore be prevented.

to be trained up in Truths way with a commendable Education

We Recommend to you that are parents the Plainness and holy Discipline of the Truth among your Children that they may be trained up in Truths way, and with a Commendable Education According to your abilities; That a Peculiar People we may be in the Life of Righteousness in our Generation Diligently Improving that good Understanding, and those Heavenly Gifts, the Lord hath endued you with, and made you Stewards of to the Honour of him that hath Called you, and the good and Comfort one of Another.

1697

1697 to be put Apprentice to Friends

It being under Consideration how Friends Children might be Disposed of that are trained up in the way of Truth, and fit to be put forth Apprentices; It's the Advice and Counsel of Friends that Special Care be taken to put them Apprentices to honest Friends, that they may be Preserved in the Way of Truth

1700
1701
1703
1704

1700 & 1701 } See plainness. p. 223.

See 1703. in p: 50.

1704

timely to Restrain p39:40:41 48

And Parents are again Reminded to Continue their Godly Care, and Excise their Just and due Authority and Command over their Children timely to Restrain them from the Worlds Corruptions and Extravagancies both in habit & Language, Behaviour & Conversation that they may keep the Way of the Lord and walk uprightly therein.

1706

1706

Advised to keep Children out of the vain & foolish fashions and ways of the World and in plainness of Language, habit and Behaviour

1709

Children

1709

1709 Advised, That all Heads of Families, and Especially such who are Elders in the Church of Christ, be all Diligent & Careful to watch over the young Generation that Sobriety Plainness & Virtue may be Encouraged and Promoted, and Exemplarily Recommended by you to them, That the Liberty too many of our Youth take in following the Fashions & Customs of the World, which tend to the Dishonour & Reproach of the Testimony of the Blessed Truth, may be Discouraged, and Such as are found in the Same, Dealt with in the Fear wisdom & Love of God, that they may be Won, and brought into Humility and Subjection to the Lord and his Truth; ———

heads of Families & Elders to watch over the young &c. p. 41.

to be Dealt with

More in the Same Epistle. — See plainness. p. 224.

1710

1710 The Lord knows we would not have any of our Dear Friends Children, who are Natural Branches of a good Stock, Degenerate from that good Seed and tender Plant that He has sown & planted in them, nor Corrupted from Truth's Simplicity or Innocency, by the Society or ill Examples of any other Children, Which Friends who are Parents should take timely Care to Prevent.

Caution against Degeneracy

1715

1715 That our Children may be preserved from the Wiles of Satan, as much as in us lies, Let a Godly Care & Concern be upon the Minds of all Parents to Watch over them, with Supplications to the Lord, that they may not be Drawn away from the Innocency Simplicity & Plainness of the way of Truth; and La-bour in a Sense of Truth to reach the Witness in them, that they may feel in their own Spirits a Degree of Fear & Reverence towards God, and Instruct them to follow his Counsel, and obey his voyce, as the Tribes of Israel were Required of God,

parents to watch over Children

& Labour with them

1713

p. 47.

to teach His Precepts Diligently unto their Children. Deut. 6. v. 7. And thou shalt teach them Diligently unto thy Children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when walkest by the way, and when thou lyest Down and when thou risest up." ——

So be you Concerned to acquaint them, how the Lord Led you from one Degree of Faithfulness to Ano=ther, in a Denial of the Worlds Corrupt ways Lan=guage & Customs, which while We in Disobedience to him walked in, We Could not Enjoy true Peace, But as we bore the Cross and bowed to his Will, We had an Evidence of Acceptance with Him, And be Careful that none of you by a neglect herein, become Exam=ples unto them to Depart from the Scripture Lan=guage, wherein is true Propriety of Speech.

1717

1717 As touching the Education of Friends Children for which this Meeting hath often found a Concern, We think it our Duty to Recommend unto you the Necessity that there is of a Care in preserving them in plainness of Speech and habit Suitable to our Holy Profession: and also that no Opportunity be O=mitted, nor any Endeavours wanting to Instruct them in the Principle of Truth which we Profess; that thereby they being Sensible of the Operation thereof in themselves, may find their spirits not only Softned & Tender'd, fit to Receive the Impressions of the Divine Image, but may also from thence find themselves under a Necessity to appear Clear in the Several Branches of our Christian Testimony: And as this will be most beneficial to them, being the fruits of Conviction so it is the most Effectual way of propagating the same throughout the Churches of Christ: And there being times & Seasons wherein their Spirits are more than at

others

1717 Others Disposed to have those things Impressed upon them; so we Desire that all Parents and others Concerned in the Oversight of Youth, might wait in the Fear of God to know themselves Divinely Qualified for that Service, that in his Wisdom they may make Use of every such Opperturnity, which the Lord shall put into their hands. And we hereby warn and advise Friends in all places to flee every Ap=pearance of Evil, and keep out of Pride, and following the vain fashions and Customs of the World, as Recommended in the Epistle, 1715.

1723

1723 what books &c not to be allowed

Advised & Exhorted That all Parents Masters & Mistreses of Families and Guardians of minors that they prevent as much as in them lies their Children, Servants and youth under their Respective Care & Tuition from the having or reading Books or papers, that have any Tendency to prejudice the Profession of the Christian Religion, to Create in them the Least Doubt or Question Concerning the Truth of the Holy Scriptures, or those Necessary and Saving Truths Declared in them, Lest their infant and feeble minds should be poisoned thereby, and a foun=dation laid for the greatest Evils.

1724

1724 to inspect their Con=versation

The Circumstances of Our Youth having been again under our Consideration, We Judge it Necessary to Observe, That the undue Liberty too many of them take, both in their Conversation one with another as well as with those not of our Perswasion, hath been Cause of Grief to know & hear, Wherefore We tenderly Recommend to all Parents, and Such as may have Care of Children that they do as far as in them lies Carefully Inspect & Narrowly Inquire into the Manner of their Conversation, That where Counsel or Reproof may be wanting it may in the Spirit of Love, and in Sound Judgment be given.

1725

1725

1725 to Labour for an Inheritance in the Truth rather than in this World p. 49.

And you who are Parents of Children Labour fervently in Spirit, with Secret Supplication unto the Lord, that he may Give them an Inheritance in the Truth, wherein they may be Enabled to Stand up in their Generation after you, to his Praise and Glory, rather than Labour to get great Inheritances for them in this World; which has proved a Snare and Temptation to some to shun the Cross, And Embrace the Glory of this present World, But that those to whom God hath given Riches, may 1 Tim°. 6. 17. take the Apostles Advice, that they be not high minded, but fear, and trust not in Uncertain Riches, But therewith be rich in good works, willing to Communicate, ready to Distribute." And therein be a good Example to their Children.

1729

1729 Company

It ought to be the great care & Concern of Parents, as they value the welfare of their Children and Posterity, and others who have Youth under their Care, that they Endeavour by their Example, as well as precept, to keep them from bad Company, for many have found by sad Experience, the truth of that Saying of the Apostle, Evil Communication doth Corrupt Good manners. ——

See Scriptures. p. 317.

1731

1731 Advice to Parents and Gaardians Concerning Education

Inasmuch as we have a Large body of Youth growing up, the Offspring of Friends, these Call for our Special care & Concern, that they may be Preserved in the way of Truth, in which our fore fathers walked; and in order thereto, We tenderly Recommend to all Parents and Guardians, first that they take heed to themselves, that their own spirits be rightly seasoned and Directed for the help and good Government of their Children, and then that they have a Constant watchful Eye in Love, over them for their Good and keep them as much as possible within their notice & Observation.

1 for

1731 for this we are Sensible of, that the Miscarriages of Youth have very much Proceeded from their being Imprudently Indulged, or Left to themselves, by which means they become Exposed to the danger of Evil Examples on the one hand, and vicious Corrupt Principles on the other, with which the World too Much abounds: and therefore we Earnestly and tenderly Advise all Parents & Guardians, to be watchfully Concerned in this Respect, And that they take all proper Occasions both by Example and Instruction to help their Children, And that Mothers of Children as well as Fathers as they have frequently the best opportunities, would take Particular care to Instruct them in the Knowledge of Religion and the holy Scriptures because it has been found by Experience that good Impressions Early made on the tender minds of Children, have proved Lasting means of preserving them in a Religious Life & Conversation: This Practice was Enjoyned Strongly upon the People of Israel by Moses and p. 44 Joshua the Servants of the Lord, who Required them to read or Repeat the Law to their Children: And the Apostle Paul takes notice of Timothy's being well Instructed in the holy Scriptures from a Child, and of the Unfeigned Faith which Dwelt in his Grandmother Lois, and his Mother Eunice, 2 Tim: 1: 5. Who no Doubt had a Religious Care of his Education.

monthly meetings to stir up parents to this Duty

But when Parents or Guardians are Deficient in such their Care, We Recommend Monthly Meetings that they Stir them up thereto Either by Visiting them in their Families, or in such manner, as in the Wisdom of God they may see meet; that so the Doctrines of the Gospel, and a Conversation agreeable thereunto may be Maintained unto all Generations.

1732

1732 See Scriptures, page 318.

1733 1733. See Scriptures, page. 319.
1734 1734 See the same, page 319.
1735 1735 See Plainness, p. 228.
and See Scriptures, p. 320.

1736

1736 And Dear Friends you who have Children under your Care or Tuition, We Beseech you to Accustom them early to the Reading of the Holy Scriptures and to train them up in the way of the Cross, as soon as they are Capeable of receiving Impressions of good and evil, that parents be Careful how they Indulge them in any thing that has an evil tendency, Endeavouring to restrain them from every hurtful thing, which their Natural Inclinations may Lead them to Desire after, this we think is the Indispensible Duty of all Parents and We cannot see how they can answer the Omission of it in the sight of God; for such a neglect too often Occasions ill habits which afterwards are not to be restrained without great Difficulty, if at all. We also earnestly Entreat our Young Friends, with all readyness of mind to receive, and give place to the Labour of Love and wholesom Admonitions bestowed upon them by their Parents & others for their Benefit & Instruction; and Carefully to avoid all evil Company, which corrupts good manners, and leads into Disorders and Extravagancies, And that the Endeavours of Parents may be Crowned with Success, it behoveth them to Enforce their advice by a Suitable Practice, and an Exemplary walking in all Holiness and Godliness of Conversation.

train them up in the way of the Cross.

not to Indulge but restrain them

p. 39.

Youth Intreated to receive admonition

p. 39. 40. 41. 44. 46.

1737

1737 And Dear Friends it has been the Concern of this our Annual Meeting, from the Relation and hopes given Us of Truth's Spreading in Foreign

Countries

1737 Countries That Friends who are of Abilities and have the Prosperity of Truth at heart, would in the Education of their Children, take Care as Suitable Opperlunities & Occasions may offer, to let them be Instructed in some Modern Tongue, as French High & Low Dutch, Danish &c— that so when they are grown up, they themselves if traders to Foreign Countries may reap the benefit thereof, and as it shall please the Lord to Dispose & Incline them, may be of Service to the Church.

to be Instructed in some modern Language

See Families. page, 118.

1751

1751 It has been matter of Affliction to this Meeting to Understand by the Accounts received from divers Countries that Notwithstanding the repeated Exhortations, and tender Counsel given forth by this Meeting to Parents & others Concerned for Youth, and that ought to be Properly Engaged for their due Education, and the Forming their tender minds to the Exercise of Piety & Religion, Yet too great a Deficiency appears in that Important Duty: Under a pressing Concern of mind for the Revival of so Necessary a Care, early Enjoyned the Chosen people of God, i.e: the Israelites, and the Concern of the Faithful in every age; We Communicate this Additional Coun=-sel, and Intreat them to Consider that there ought to be proper Limitations assigned to their Anxiety after this World, and an hearty Engagement to Seek Prima=-rily after that Blessing that makes truly Rich, and brings no Sorrow with it: The neglect of this weighty Obli=-gation has produced fatal Effects to the Youth in many Places; The Life of Religion being lost by the Parents, they have been Disabled from Instructing their Children, and the most excellent part of that near Relation has been entirely Lost; Their minds bent to the World, and Devoted to its pursuits has Center'd them in the acquisition

p. 46.

of

Children

1751 of Earthly Possessions, as their Principal and only Good; And a Jealous Righteous God has often Punished such in themselves or Offspring as he did the People of Old, Haggai. 1. Ye looked for much and Lo it came to little, and when ye brought it home I did blow upon it, Why? Saith the Lord of Hosts, — Because of mine House that is wast, and ye run every man into his own House.

There is great Reason to hope a Blessing would attend the honest Endeavours of Parents, that the minds of Youth thus Seasoned, they might be render'd useful in our Zion, and be brought up in Service Ac=cording to the Will of God.

And, Dearly Beloved Youth, in an humble Sense of the Continued Visitations of the Fathers Love and Experience of their Blessed Effects We intreat you by the Mercies of God, Receive its holy Impressions, Submit to its Discipline, This will preserve you from the Deplorable Effect of Satans Transformations Inspire you with holy Resolutions and support to maintain them in all Godly Conversation, and Pu=rity of Faith & Life; adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel by a blameless Demeanour; True Peace will thus flow as a River in your own minds, and the fruits of the tree of Righteousness, brought forth to your Inexpressible Consolation in Christ, the Revival of Zions beauty the Rebuilding her Desolations, that by and through you She may yet appear beautiful to the Sincere hearted, But to her Enemies terrible as an Army with Banners.

1703

1703 Advised that all Parents be watchful over their Children, and Careful not to Suffer them to get up into Pride and Excess but to keep them in that Decent plain=ness which becomes the People of God, That the sin of the Children may not lie upon the Parents,

This is Omitted in its proper place.

nor

1703 nor they be Exposed to ruin by the Parents Neglect. —

brought up to useful Imployments

And that Friends of all Degrees take Due Care to breed up their Children in some Useful & Necessary Employments, that they may not Spend their precious Time in Idleness, which is of evil Example, and tends much to their hurt.

Conversation

N: 6: Concerning Conversation.

1675

1675 to keep to the testimony of truth

1675 It is much upon us to put Friends in remembrance to keep to the Ancient Testimony Truth begat in our hearts in the beginning against the Spirit of this World, for which many have Suffered Cruel Mockings, beatings Stoneings &c, particularly as to the Corrupt Fashions, Dealings, & Language, of the World, their Over-reachings, and vain jestings that the Cross of Christ in all things may be kept to, which preserves Friends blameless, and honours the Lords Name and Truth in the Earth.

1676

1676 See Coctousness. page, 85.

1688

1688 Advised, That Friends every where be put in mind to keep under the Leadings and Guidance of the Spirit of Truth, in their Outward Habits and Fashions thereof, not Suffering the Spirit of the World to get over them, in a Lust to be like unto them in things useless and Superfluous, lest it prevail upon them by giving a little way to it, 'till it lead them from the Simplicity and plainness that becomes the Gospel, and so from one vain Liberty to another 'till they come to Loose the Blessed Liberty that is in Christ, into which they were in Measure redeemed, and fall back into the Bondage of the Worlds Spirit and grow up into the Liberty of the Flesh with the Lust and Concupiscence thereof, and so Lose both their name and place in the Truth, as too many have Done.

1691

1691 to watch against the spirit of the World

1691 Advised in Gods holy Fear to watch against, and keep out the Spirit and Corrupt Friendship of the World, and that no Fellowship may be held or had with the Unfruitful Works of Darkness nor therein—

with

1691 with the workers thereof.

avoid frequenting Taverns &c. And to avoid Unnecessary frequenting Taverns Alehouses, all Looseness, Excess, and unprofitable and Idle Discourses, mis-spending their Precious Time & Substance to the Dishonour of Truth, and Scandal of Our holy Profession.

and See plainness, page, 223.

1712

1712 See Plainness, page, 225

1725

1725 watch over our own Spirits Let us watch Diligently over our own Spirits to see that we are Conformable to the Spirit of Truth, whereby our Behaviour & Conversation may be Such as becomes Godliness, and may adorn the Doctrine of Christ Jesus our Lord Who Mercifully hath Called us to be a People Faithful in Bearing the Cross and Despising the shame, and Chearfully bearing our Testimony to the great Truths of the Christian Religion, Which He hath Revealed, and against every appearance of Antichrist and Wickedness.

1731

1731 Caution to be Careful of their Conversation at Inns &c It is the Care and Concern of this Meeting to Recommend unto all Friends resorting to any of our Annual Assemblies, either in this City or Elsewhere, to be very Careful at their Inns, or other place where they may Lodge or Convers, to be prudent in all manner of Behaviour both in Publick and private, — Avoiding, all Intemperance in Eating and Drinking, and likewise any foolish jesting or Undue Liberty Whatsoever; That our Conversations Seasoned with the Fear of God, may appear Correspondent to our Profession and answer the Witness of God in Others: And we advise that the Quarterly Meetings in those Counties where such meetings are held take special care in this Respect

with

1731

With Regard to that Openness and good Disposition which appears in the minds of People to hear the Testimony of Truth, and some Convincement in diver places, We earnestly advise Friends, That they be Careful of their Conduct at all times and on all Occasions, That no stumbling block be laid in the way of honest Enquirers, nor offence given to tender Young Convinced Friends, "Let your Light so shine before men that they may see your good Works, and Glorify your Father which is in Heaven. "Let us walk wisely towards those that are without, as well as those within, "Let our Moderation and Prudence, as well as Truth & Justice, appear to all men, and in all things, in trading & Commerce, in speech & Communication in Eating & Drinking, in Habit & Furniture, and through all in a meek lowly Quiet Spirit, That as we profess to be a Spiritual minded People, We may appear to be such, as being Bounded by the Cross of Christ, Shew forth the Power of that Divine Principle we make Profession of, by a Conversation every way agreeable thereunto.

be careful that no stumbling block be laid in the way of Enquirers &c

1734

1734

And Seeing it is very Evident, that evil Communi=
=cations Corrupt Good manners, We think proper to Recommend with much affection to our Young Friends that they be very Careful to avoid all such Company, as by a light and vain Conversation would tend to Alienate their minds from the Love of Virtue and Sobriety, for "the Discourse of Fools is irksome, and their sport is in the Wantonness of Sin, Eccles. 27: 13." If (therefore) thou be among the Indiscreet, observe the time, tarry not there, but be Continually among Men of Understanding. Ver. 12. —

to avoid light and vain Com=
=pany

And See Scriptures, page 319.

1736

Conversation

1736

1736 Tho' the accounts we have received from some Places in this and other Countries, of the Prosperity of Truth, and of the Coming forth of some among us in a Publick Testimony thereunto, have been very ac=
=ceptable unto Us; Yet it is with much Grief & Concern
Declention observed that We Observe in some a Declension from the way of Righteousness & Truth, as well as from the plainness of Habit, & Simplicity of Speech & Behaviour, which were so Conspicuous in our Early Friends, and many
and from whence it ariseth of their Offspring: - This Declension We apprehend Arises from a Disregard to the Divine Light & Truth they have often been Recommended to, as the Regulator of their Words & Actions. — By a Careful Conscientious
by what the holy obtained a good Report in all ages Regard to this, the Holy Men in all ages Obtained a good Report, and our Ancients and many of their Im=
=mediate Offspring were Comely in the Eyes of the Nation for their Solid Deportment, and Religious Regard to their words & Actions, a Godly Fear rested upon their minds, That the Precious Truth and Principle which they Professed, and felt the Blessed Effects of, might not Suffer Reproach from their Misconduct; the like holy Concern now would tend to Regulate our Youth, and render them more Comely in the Eyes of Beholders, than any Exteral Ornaments or Dechings of the body Whatsoever; this would Instruct them to avoid all Pride & Affectation, and endue them with Humility Modesty and Virtue which Recommend to the favour of God, and a good Esteem among Men; A Religious regard to the Principle of Light & Truth, Gods Witness in the mind & heart of man, ever produces the most Be=
=neficial Effects, as well to Society in General as to every One in Particular, This would Introduce Uni=
=versal Love Peace and Concord among mankind;

This

1736 This would Sweeten the Bitter Spirit, Mollifie & Asswage the fierce and Violent Dispositions of men, Mutually Endear Relations & Friends, and bring all into the Unity & Fellow=ship of the holy Spirit The Fruits whereof the Apostle Declareth, are Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Brotherly kind=ness and Charity: We do therefore most Earnestly Recommend a Strict Attention to this holy & Divine Principle to Friends every where, and in a particular manner to the Youth of the Present Generation.

And Dear Friends in Order that as we have received Christ, so we may walk in him, in all holiness and Godliness of Conversation, We Earnestly Exhort that ye hold fast the Profession of the Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ without wavering, both in Respect to his outward Coming in the Flesh, His Sufferings, Death, Resurrection Ascention, Mediation and Intercession at the Right hand of the Father; And to the inward Manifestation of his grace and holy Spirit in our hearts, Powerfully working in the Soul of Man, to the Subduing every evil Affection & Lust, and to the Purifying of our Consciences from dead works to Serve the Living God; and that through the Virtue and Efficacy of this most holy Faith, Ye may become Strong in the Lord, and in the Power of His Might which will Enable you to Worship God in Spirit with Acceptance, and preserve you in a Lively frame of mind, from a Drowsy & Lukewarm Spirit, which in all our Religious Assemblies ought to be guarded a=gainst with the utmost Care & Circumspection: —— In this Lively Faith and pure Life of Christ, You will have Victory over the World, over your Desires after the Grandeur and Perishing things thereof, and over all Corrupt Customs & Fashions, which are Contrary to the purity of the Gospel and our Ancient Christian Testimony.

1737

Conversation

1737

1737 For the sake of tender & Young Convinced Friends an Earnes Concern is on the minds of many that no Occasion of Stumbling or Offence be laid in their way; but that all such as have made Longer Profession of the way of Truth, may be careful to walk before them in all holiness & Uprightness of Conversation and in an humble waiting upon the Lord, that their Example may tend to the Encouragement and Strengthning of those who have been more lately Visited, to a Steady & Constant perseverance in the path which the Lord hath Directed their feet into.

the like in 1731. p. 61.

And Dear Friends, 'tis with much Sorrow and Grief of heart, We have Still Occasion to Remind you of the advices so lately Delivered in our Yearly Epistle, namely to keep out of Extravagant Fashions & Customs of the World, and not to Launch further into Trade & Business than you are Capable of managing & Carrying on with Reputation and Credit among men, and without prejudice Loss or Detriment to any. We are fully Perswaded that if Friends every where had a Due Respect & Regard to this One precept of Christ, Viz.t "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness;" which is the Indispensible Duty of all his followers to observe, we should have little or no Occasion for the Repetition of such Advices: Let therefore, We Earnestly beseech you that precept of our Blessed Lord and Master, and holy Head, be duly Considered and put in Practice; that by ordering our Conversations agreeable to our Profession, We may shew forth the Praise of Him that hath Called us so shall we Witness the Promise to be fulfilled, Them that honour me, saith the Lord I will honour

see p. 59. 61. 62. & under plainness p. 223 to p. 229. & under Trading p. 391. to p. 397.

1738

1738 And forasmuch as we are Called with an high and holy Calling, to all Holiness and purity of Conversation,

Let

Conversation

1738

against vain Fashion sports Plays &c

Let your Behaviour among men be unblameable and such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ; Let not the vain & Foolish fashions of the World prevail over you;— avoid Sports, Plays, and all such Diversions, as tending to Alienate the mind from God, and to Deprive the Soul of His Comfortable Presence & Power;

be temperate &c

Be Temperate and Sober, Shun all Excess in Eating and Drinking; Let such of you as Deal in Spirituous Li=quors, be Careful to Limit your Trade within the Bounds Prescribed by the Law of the Land, Beware Lest any of you suffer as an evil Doer. 1 Pet. 4: 15.

1739

1739 The advice in 1738 renewed: and Earnestly beseech our Friends and the Youth Especially, to avoid all such Conversation as tends to Drais out their minds into the foolish & Wicked Pastimes with which this age abounds Particularly Balls, Gaming places, Horse Races, and Playhouses, those Nurserys of De=bauchery & Wickedness.— the Burthen & Grief of the Sober part of other Societies, as well as of our own.— Practices wholly Unbecoming a People Under the Christian Profession, &c. See the Printed Epistle.

1743

1743 See plainness page: 230.

N°7. Concerning Correspondents

1682

1682 See 1708. 1725. 1747. Agreed, that the Persons to be Corresponded with here, be from time to time agreed and Directed by the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1693

1693 Friends to write to Correspond.ts Agreed that Each Quarterly Meeting take Care to Advise the Correspondents for the Counties, and any others Concerned, to write only to the Correspondents in London, about their Sufferings, and not to other Persons, lest their Suffering Case be Delayed.

1701

1701 This Meeting Desires the City Correspondents Do write to the Several places beyond Sea, at Least once a year.

1702

1702 Who are proper Members of the Meet.g for Sufferings Agreed, after a Serious Consideration, that none are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings, But Publick Friends, and such as are appointed or approved by the Several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties, and other Countries that Correspond with this Meeting in all Places, and are Entered as such in the Correspond Book.

1703

1703 See 1725. After a Consideration about the Correspondents in London, it was agreed by this Meeting, That it was of Right for the Deputies of the Counties to Diminish or add to their Correspondents, as they See Meet.

1709

1709 It is agreed, that in the Epistles to Foreign Parts, Friends be acquainted of such Friends as are named here for them to Correspond with upon the Affairs of

Truth

1709 for foreign parts. &c. 1730. p. 77.

Truth; and to inform them how they may Direct to them, if the Friends there approve of them. Otherwise that they advise this Meeting who they would have for their Correspondents here; and that they let Friends here know to whom and where they shall Direct to them there.

1713

1713

Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to Enquire whether the Epistles be Duly sent by the Correspondents to the Foreign Plantations.

1717

1717 no place to have more than four

Agreed, That the London Correspondents be no more than four for any One County or Place for the future: and that where the Number at Present Exceeds four, as soon as any of them Decline or Dye, and they are reduced to four, the Number in those places also shall be kept to a number not Exceeding Four.

1720

1720 -to give Attendance

The Meeting for Sufferings is Desired to Call upon the Members thereof to give the Service of their attendance therein: and that if Notwithstanding being so Called upon, any Members shall Neglect or Refuse to give their Assistance on all Necessary Occasions, the said Meeting is Desired to acquaint therewith the County for whom such Friends neglecting to Serve are Appointed, that they may name or appoint Some other Friend who can or will attend the Service on all Necessary Occasions

1725

1725 Qu: Meetg: to appoint Correspond.ts

Agreed, that the Quarterly Meetings in the Country be Directed, Expressly to give Instructions, to their Deputies who attend this Meeting, what Correspondents they shall Nominate in the City, in the room of any Friend Deceased or Removed; or else Expressly leave them to their Liberty of Choice, &c———

And

1725 And also that the Meeting for Sufferings within some
meeting for Sufferings to give notice of the Death of any Member
Seasonable time after the Death of any of their Members
Do give notice to the County or Counties for Whom the said
Friend is appointed, in order that they may give such Di=
=rections, the next Yearly Meeting.

1730

1730 This Meeting having had under their Consideration,
Persons not to be Correspondts
a Proposition made Relating to persons Employed as Cor=
=respondents, some of whom have failed in the payment of
their Just Debts; "Tis Deemed that no Person under such
Circumstance is fit to be Employed in that Station, till
he hath given the Monthly Meeting he belongs to, Satisfac=
=tion; — And therefore hereby Recommends it to the Meeting
for Sufferings, That for the future they take Special Care,
where any such failure has or may happen, that they
duly apprise the Counties thereof, for Which they stand
Correspondents, in Order that a new Choice may be made
to Supply his Place. — A Copy of this Minute to be sent
down to the Several Counties, for Friends there also to Act
agreeable hereto with Respect to Correspondents in the
Country Likewise.

This Meeting Recommends it to the Meeting for
Sufferings, to take Due Care to See that the Correspondents
writing to foreign parts.
for Foreign Countries Answer the Several Epistles Received
from thence; and also Write to the Several Distant places
in the World Wherewithall this Meeting hath heretofore
Corresponded, where any Friends are, Notwithstanding
1709 & 1713 in p. 76.
at any time this Meeting may not have any account
from thence Either by Epistle or Otherwise: and that
all such Answers allowed, be Signed by the Meeting for
Sufferings in behalf of this Yearly Meeting.

1734

1734 attendance required See. 1720 1736 1737

It being taken notice of in this Meeting, that some Friends of the City whose names stand in the Correspondent Book, do very Seldom attend the Meeting for Sufferings, This Meeting are of Opinion that such who do not attend the said Meeting, at least once in a Quarter of a year Should be Discharged by this Meeting unless some Sufficient Reason Should be Rendered.

1735

1735 A minute of the Like Purport.

1736

1736 The Friends of the Meeting for Sufferings having laid before this Meeting, a minute Respecting some Difficulties, in putting in Practice the Advices of this Meeting in the years 1734 & 1735 Relating to the attendance of the Members of that Meeting in the Service thereof; And This meeting taking the same into their Consideration Approves what the said Meeting have done: and now agrees, that instead of being Obliged to attend once a Quarter, all such Members to attend at least Six times a year.

attendance &c See. 1737

1737

1737 On perusing the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings Respecting the Attendance of its Members We find that a Considerable Deficiency appears in attending the Same altho for Several Years past they have been Earnestly Requested to do it: — This Meeting being Desirous they may Come up in their Service, Request their Care & Diligence for the future; And do agree, that such that dont attend at least Six times in the year, pursuant to the Direction of a Minute of the last Yearly Meeting, shall be Struck out of the Correspond Book unless they give Sufficient Reasons to the Contrary.

not attending Six times a year to be Struck out

Correspondents

1743

1743 See Representatives, page, 303

1747

1747 This Meeting having Considered the nature and Importance of the Affairs Transacted by the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Continued Necessity there is that they Should be Managed by grave and Weighty Friends such as are themselves men of Clean hands, and adorning the Doctrine they Profess in their Lives & Conversations; it is become the Earnest Desire of this Meeting that for the future Friends every where will be Particularly Careful in the Choice of such who are to Act as Correspondents either in the City or the Counties, informing themselves, as much as may be, of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such Services; And that Such only may be Nomi=nated, Who are Faithful in the Several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Tithes, Bearing Arms and Swearing; and who are also Exemplary in their Conduct and Conversation amongst men, and Coming up in that plainness of speech, Behaviour and apparel which highly becomes those in an Especial manner who are Concerned in Managing the Affairs of the Church.

Qualifications to be Considered

See 1730 p. 77.

Covetousness

No 8 Concerning Covetousness

1676

1676 not Covet to be rich,

And none strive Nor Covet to be rich in this World in these Changeable things that will pass away, But your Faith to stand, in the Lord God, Who Changes not, that Created all and gives the Increase of all.

1697

1697 beware of Covetousness &c

We do in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Warn and Charge all that Profess the Truth among us, to take heed & Beware of Covetousness, Over-reaching, Oppressing & Defrauding of Any; from whence Strife Contention and Law Suits do often arise, and if any Difference about these things do happen among you, to stop and Suppress it.

1699

1699 abide under the Dayly Cross, &c

Let all Friends be Exhorted to abide under the Dayly Cross, whereby the Earthly mind may be Cru=cified, which hath its Delight & Ease in Vanity, Pride & Covetousness, &c, That Friends being Preserved out of those things, wherein the Enemy hath had and has his Kingdom, and too plainly lays his Snares to hinder their holy Progress, may every where be more and more a Retired Serious Plain and Self-denying People, growing in the Grace and Knowledge of God, and our Lord Jesus Christ and Exalting his Spiritual Kingdom in their Souls.

1720

1720 Beware of Covetousness & hastening to be rich

As our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Ex=horted & Warned to beware & take heed of Covetousness which is Idolatry; We are Concerned that all profes=ing Christianity among Us, may take heed of Pride, Covetousness, and hastening to be Rich in the World which are pernicious and growing Evils, Let them be watched against, Resisted and Suppressed

in

Covetousness

1720 in the Fear and Dread of Almighty God and have no place or Countenance in His Camp. ——
O ye Grave Elders both men and Women! Pray be Careful & Watchful Against these Evils, and over the Youth in these Cases.

1721

1721 The last Years Caution Repeated.

1725

1725 See Children. page, 46.

Days

N° 9 Concerning Days

1690

1690 See Children, page, 40.

1691

1691 Advised that Friends keep to their Wonted Example and Testimony against the Superstitious Observation of Days.

1697

1697 That all Friends keep to the Simplicity of Truth, in Calling the Months and Days by Scripture Names, and not by Heathen.

1715

1715 See Plainness, page, 226.

N: 10 Concerning Defamation

1718

1718 It is the Advice of this Meeting, that any Person Charged with Defamation or Scandal, ought to be Proceeded against in the Manner, and by the Several Steps following.

the Defamed to deal privately with the Defamer

First, The Person Defamed or Supposed to be Defamed, in his own Person, or any other to whom the knowledge of the Case Shall come, to go to the accused, and tell him his fault or Supposed Fault, between them alone, and by the best method he is Capable of, to Labour to Convince him of it in order to his Acknowledgement of the Truth, and Repentance if he appears to be guilty, But if the Accused Shall appear, either thro' Ignorance not to apprehend the Validity of the Proof, or thro' Willfullness not to yeeld to it, Or being Convinced, shall refuse to make such Satisfaction as the Nature of the Case Requires, (that being the Consequence of true Repentance) In such Case,

afterward to take one or two more & the accused may bring one or two also.

the accuser to take with him one or two more, of the Monthly Meeting the accused belongs to, if it may Conveniently be done, and if the accused thinks fit, he may bring with him one or two Friends also, of the same Monthly Meeting if it may be Conveniently done, and they together in the Wisdom of God, to Endeavour the true knowledge of the Case, by hearing Witnesses if there be Occasion, And if they all Shall Judge him Guilty, and he doth not make Satisfaction, or if they do not all agree that he is Innocent, in either of these Cases happening, The Person Charging hath Liberty to bring

may bring the Case before the Church.

the Matter before the Church, Who are the only Judges now Remaining, both of the Nature of the fact, and the Validity of the Proof of it, And they in the Wisdom of God, which we hope will not be wanting to his Church, as they Humbly Wait on Him for it

to

1728

to Deal with him for the good ends before Mentioned and as they See Cause, upon a Mature & Deliberate Consideration, to Justify or Condemn him. And if the Church shall see meet to Commit the Consideration of a Case of this Nature, for better Dispatch, to Certain Persons of their own body; We Recommend it as our tender advice, That in case the accused shall object a-gainst one or more of the Friends Chosen, that the Church have a due Regard to such Objection, and lay aside the Person or Persons so objected against, And Substitute another or others in his or their Room. Provided such objection doth not Extend to the major part of the Friends so Chosen: And in General, We Desire all tenderness and regard may be had to a Per-son under such Circumstances, and that Friends in a spirit of Love & Condescention, should be ready to make him as easy as they Can, Provided they keep up the Authority of their Meetings

if a Case be Committed Regard is to be had to the objections of the accused

Nameless Books and Pamphlets reflecting Darkly on Friends, are Testified against and its Desired, that no such Books be Written, Printed Pub-lished, or privately handed about, by any under our Profession for the time to Come.

See Talebearing & Backbiting, page, 357 to page, 359.

Discipline

N° 11 Concerning Discipline.

1675

1675 Testimonies against Offenders & their Repentance to be Recorded

1675 Advised, That the Churches Testimonies and Judgment against Disorderly & Scandalous Walkers, as also the Repentance & Condemnation of the Parties Restored, be Recorded in a Distinct Book, in the Respective Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the Clearing of Truth, Friends and our holy Profession, to be produced and Published by Friends for that End and Purpose, So far only as in Gods Heavenly Wisdom they shall see Needful.

not to upbraid any with past offences

And it is also Our Advice in the Love of God, That after any Friends Repentance & Restoration, He abiding Faithful in the Truth that Condemns the evil, None among you so Remember his Transgression as to Cast it at him, or upbraid him with it, for that is not According to the Mercies of God.

1694

1694 If there be any such Gross Errors false Doctrines or Mistakes, held by any Professing Truth [in America] as are either against the Validity of Christs Sufferings, Blood, Resurrection, Ascention, or Glory in the Heavens, according as they are set forth in the Scriptures; Or any ways tending to the Denial of the Heavenly Man Christ: Such Persons ought to be Diligently Instructed and Admonished by Faithful Friends [in those parts] and not to be Exposed by any to Publick Reproach, and and where the Error proceeds from Ignorance and Darkness of their Understanding, they ought the more meekly and gently to be informed; But if any shall Willfully persist in Error in point of Faith, after Duly Informed; Then such to be further Dealt with, according to Gospel Order, That the Truth, Church, or Body of Christ may not Suffer by any Particular pretended Member that is so Corrupt.

1698

Discipline

1698

1698 Friends to be appointed to oversee & admonish &c

Advised, That in all Cases wherein the Testimony of Truth is Concerned, Faithful Friends of the Respective Monthly Meetings be Appointed to see how well those things be Observed, and tenderly to Admonish such in Brotherly Love that shall Decline the same.

1701

1701 If any weakness, Shortness, failure or Unfaithfulness appear in any Professing the same Truth with us, We hope Faithful Friends & Brethren will Continue their Christian Care for their help Instruction and Admonition, in the Love and Power of the Lord, as in His Wisdom they shall see Cause, still aiming at their good, their inward Peace of Conscience, and Salvation in Christ Jesus.

1703

1703 to watch over the Flock

Recommended unto Faithful Friends and Elders Especially, to watch over the flock of Christ in their Respective places, that they Faithfully & Diligently walk up to the Testimony of the Blessed Truth, to which the Lord hath gathered us in this Latter Age of the World; that so where any are found short, weak, or faulty, they may be Admonished and Sought in the Spirit of Love, which is that of the Gospel, That Divine Charity that Draws as with the Cords of a Man, wherein Mercy is not only mixt with Judgment, but may appear over all our Works, that so it may be seen to all, that Church Love abounds before Church Censure Comes, and that a Gospel Spirit is the Spring and Motive to all our Performances as well in Discipline as Worship.

the faulty to be admonished

1708

1708 Forasmuch as some Persons, who by their ill Conduct have Justly Deserved, and come under the Censure of the Meetings to which they Belong,

have

1708 have thought to get from under the weight of that
Such who have come under & Given a paper of Condemnation & yet not to be too Early Succided
Judgment by Signing a paper of Condemnation, and thereby suppose themselves Discharged: 'Tis therefore recommended to Friends Consideration, That they be careful not to admit such Persons too early into Fellowship, or give them cause to think they are accepted before the Meeting or Meetings are Satisfied in their Repentance and Amendment. Notwithstanding such paper be given.

1718

1718 See Defamation, page 93, 94.

1734

1734 We Earnestly Exhort all Friends and Brethren
watch over one another for good
That under a Living Concern of Spirit for the Honour of God, and Welfare of his People, they Diligenly watch over one another for good, and where any weakness or unfaithfulness touching any Branch of our Christian Testimony appears in any making Profession with Us, Let such be timely and tenderly advised, and in the Wisdom of Truth Stirred up to their Duty.

1735

1735 And We do further Recommend, as a means very
keeping up the Discipline a means of preservation
Conducive to the Preservation of Friends a People of one heart and one Way, for the good of themselves and their Children after them, That the Discipline of the Church in the Several Meetings Instituted for that Purpose, be kept up and Managed in a Spirit of Love & Wisdom: Let all things in those Meetings be done with Charity; Let the Love of God in an Especial manner Rule in your hearts, and therein, tho sometimes different Sentiments may arise yet will every Member have the same thing in view viz: the Glory of God and the good of his Church and People, and in this Singleness of heart they will best promote the great End and Services of those Meetings: We advise therefore upon this Occasion that Nothing be done thro

Strife

1735 strife and Contention nor from any private View, or the Influence of Numbers; but in lowlineſs of mind let each Esteem another better than himself; and where any Debates arise, Endeavour in a Spirit of meekneſs to Convince One another; and as you so stand mutually Engaged in Love, your Hearts will be Enlarged, and all undue warmths and Discord will be gradually Removed, and you will be Enabled thro' Meekneſs, Humility Longsuffering and forbearance One of Another, to keep the Unity of the spirit in the Bond of Peace, always bearing in mind that Excellent Caution of the Apostle, Gal: 5.26. Let us not " be Desirous of vain Glory provoking one another envy= " =ing one another, knowing this that the fruit of the spirit " is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleneſs, Goodneſs, " Faith, Meekneſs, Temperance, against such there is no " Law; and they that are Christs have Crucified the Flesh " with the affections and Lusts, If we Live in the spirit " Let us also walk in the spirit, ver. 22.23.24.25.

See appeals page, 1, to 4.
Arbitrations. p. 9 to 16
Families --p. 117 to 119
Fighting ---p. 123 to 125
Marriage. --p. 145 to 152

1741

1741 See Marriage, page 152

1743

1743 See Meetings for Discipline p. 176

1744

1744 See Law —— page, 138.
Marriage, page 153.
Talebearing, page 359.
Fighting --page 124.

1745

1745 See appeals, page, 4.

1747

1747 Agreed, That where a Person Commits an Offence within a Monthly Meeting wherein he resides, but is not Properly a Member by the Rules of Settlement, shall by such Monthly Meeting where the Offence is Commit-ed be Dealt with; And if it be of such a Nature as merits a Denial, the said Meeting shall Disown him, and on his Repentance Receive him again into Unity; which shall not Intitle him to Membership in the Monthly Meeting so having Dealt with him, but to the Meeting of which he was a Member before such Dealing, And the Monthly Meeting who hath Dis-owned or Accepted such Friend Shall immediately give notice of such Denial or acceptance to the Monthly Meeting to which he Belongs.

offenders may be dealt with by the monthly Meeting where they reside

See Marriage page 154.

1748

1748 See Marriage page 155.

1749

1749 Advised, That Friends would be very Careful to avoid and beware of that spirit which Leadeth into heats and strife; and which can Never work the Righteousness of God; but treat such with tenderness and affection in whom there may be a Difference of O-pinion Endeavouring in the Love & Meekness of Truth to Convince their Judgments, and Patiently to wait for the healing Influences of the Love of God, which will produce that Brotherly Regard and Condescention, as may Unite their spirits to him and one unto another.

keep out of heats & strife &c

1750

1750 The want of Due Concern to Deal with such as Walk Inconsistently with our holy Profession, and are Unfaithful in Respect to our Christian

Testimony

Discipline

1750 early & Diligent Care over the Unfaithful recommended

Testimony being but too obvious, An early and Diligent care over such is Earnestly Recommended; And We Desire, that all who have at heart the Honour of God, and the Prosperity of Truth, would be stirred up to Discharge this Necessary part of Christian Duty in their respective Stations, timely Caution may often prevent Unhappy Effects; and a Brotherly care over such as are in Danger of receiving hurt, may be Rewarded with the secret Satisfaction of being made Instrumental in their Preservation.

Greatly would the Christian Discipline Esta=blished amongst us, if thus Exerted in Divine Wisdom and Zeal, Contribute to prevent the growing Evils & hurtful Liberties of various kinds which appear in too many places, to the Dishonour of God the grief of good Men and the Reproach of our Holy Profession.

But if Individuals Neglect their Duty Grow cool in their Love to God, and Loose that hunger after Divine Virtue and inward support, to Live to his praise and their own Comfort, which is the Certain Effect of his visitation wherever it is Embraced, how can a proper Concern for the good of others, and for the Prosperity of Truth have Due place in their Minds? Or be properly Exerted by those who are not enough Engaged to feel after the Increase of its Blessed effects for themselves.

As this Neglect of Steadily applying and waiting for Heavenly Virtue and ability to Discharge the duties Required of us is the Source of Loss and Decay to particulars with Respect to a growth in Religion so the same unhappy Effects are Communicated to the Body; and where this is the Case, Evidently Discover themselves in a Disregard to Discipline and the want of a proper Concern for the good Order of the Church.

Let

1750 Let all therefore be Excited to Labour, in a spirit of Love and fervent Charity, with such as may be in danger of falling into things Injurious to their Peace, and tend=ing to the Dishonour of our Christian Profession, so that in thus Exercising a tender Care & Watchfulness ove one another for Mutual Edification, We may approve our selves Faithful Just and True in the Sight of God, and Examples of Temperance, Patience, [redacted] Purity & Holiness before Men, to the Praise of the Most high, the Comfort of his People, and our own Eternal Happiness

1751

1751 answers to Queries plain and Explicit The Answers to Our Queries brought in being plain & Explicit, have in that Respect given this Meeting good Satisfaction —— Thereby affording an Opperturnity to this Meeting to Impart the Ne=cesary Advices, Which Care we Recommend to the Practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

Elders And we Intreat the Elders amongst you, Rule with Diligence, abide in that Power that gives Dominion over all Corrupt spirits, and in Meekness and Condescention, seek to Recover that which is Stray=ed; that when the great Shepherd shall appear, You may Receive Your Reward.

1760

1760 Agreed & Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island, that for initiating Convinced Persons into Membership who have not had their Birth and Education amongst Friends.

method for Initiating Convinced persons into Membership That they first apply to a preparitive Meeting and in Person Request to come under the Care of Friends, if the Pre=paritive Meeting approve the same that they Acquaint the Monthly Meeting thereof, and the Person so Requesting to attend at that time and Signifie his or her Desire to be taken under their Care, Whereupon the Monthly Meeting Shall Appoint some Suitable Friends to Enquire into the Persons Life and Conversation and also to take a Solid Opperturnity of

Conferrence

Discipline

1760 Conference with the Petitioner in Order the better to Understand whether their Motive for such Request be sincere and from the Bottom of true Conviction and make report accordinly to the Monthly Meeting which if Satisfactory to the Meeting, that a Minute be then made thereon Signifying their Accepting such a Person into Membership with us.

But in all such Cases Friends are Desired Carefully to Attend to the Advice of the Apostle Viz.t:

Lay hand Suddenly on no man.

1760

We your Committe being appointed to Collect and Revise a set of Rules for Church discipline Throughout this Yearly meeting having Several Times met and Considered of the Same do Report, That the Rules of our Friends in Old England Are Suitable for us, With the following Remarks

Viz.t

Appeals to be delivered in on Sixth day instead of Third day. See Appeals Page 2.

That Paragraph Concerning Certificates being Stamped is to be left out. See Marriage Page 155

The following words to be added [Or on Week day meetings] See Marriage Page 147

The following Method of Constituting meetings for ministers and Elders is to be Transcribed See Page 197

A Paragraph in the Yearly Meetings Epistle from London Concerning Negroes to be added See Negroes Page 203

1758

And all the Queries to be left out until the Year 1742 and our Queries to be put in as most proper to be in use

And our present method of Constituting our Yearly meeting both of Business and ministers And Elders to be Inserted under the head of Yearly Meeting.

And the minute in our Discipline Concerning Signing Commissions to be added under the Head of Kings and Governers.

And Enter under the Head of Discipline the method of Initiating Convinced Persons.

Signed in the Presence of Said Committe
by Order Moses Aldrich

This meeting therefore appoints the following committe to agree with some Suitable Person or Persons to Transcribe the English Book of Discipline Two Volumes more, which will be one for Each Quarterly meeting and to be Paid out of the Yearly Meeting Stock and see that the Several Paragraphs Brought in by the Yearly meetings Committe are Carefully entred under their proper heads Viz

Joseph Jacobs David Earl Isaac Lawton
And William Cozzens

And this meeting Recomends to Each Quarterly Meeting that they furnish Each Particular of their Monthly meetings with Transcripts of the Same for The use Intended and that the same be done as Soon as Possible

Discipline

1770

Respecting the Proposal brought from the Morning Meeting of Ministers and Elders Concerning members not attending their Meeting it is our judgment that the same be Established as a rule in our Society

Concerning the Request brought from said Morning meeting it is Our judgment that the Establishing such Select meetings under such Regulations as is Described in said Request May be of service in our Society, as follows.

That where it shall appear upon due Inspection Made that any member shall or do neglect or Omit the due attendance of their meetings Through Sloath indolence love of the world or Lukewarmness in Religion that such monthly Meeting take care that all such be timely visited In love and acquainted with the mind and desire of friends in that case and admonished to faithfulness thereon and if Notwithstanding the due Christian labour and Admonition he she or they Shall Continue in the said neglect or Omission If a Minister his or her Publick Testimony be Denied And if an Elder he or she be Dismissed from that Station

Carried to Pag 399

N°. 12. Concerning Disputes.

1676

1676 shun vain Dispute

Advised, That Friends be tender to the tender Principle of God in all, and shun the Occasion of vain Disputes and Janglings, both among themselves and Others; for that many times is like a blustering wind that hurts and Bruises the tender Buds and Plants.

1699

1699 an humble Condescending Spirit recommended

Because our Comfort as a People Depends upon our care to maintain Peace and Fellowship among Brethren in all our Services; We Earnestly Recommend an humble and Condescending frame of Spirit unto all; that with Godly Fear, Wisdom & Meekness We may be so Ordered in all our respective Services; that every high and rough thing may be laid low, and all Occasions of striving be prevented, the Peace of the Church of Christ preserved & augmented among us; And to that Purpose it is tenderly Advised, that we Diligently and Carefully Observe the Comely and Blessed Gospel Order so long known, and in practice among us, in the Spirit of Meekness and of a sound Mind, which is the way to Crush all Differences in their Infancy, and Suppress the Rise, as well as stop the Progress of every thing that's Unseemly and inconsistent with the Testimony of the Precious Truth.

to prevent all Occasion of Strife

and Crush all Differences

1736

1736

And it is the Earnest Desire of this Meeting that a Spirit of Love and Humility may more & more Diffuse it self among us, and Influence the hearts of all, that so every one may come to seek Peace and pursue it, and that none be apt to take Offence; But each in his own Particular be more careful to rectify his own failings and Imperfections, than Curious in Observing Censuring and Aggravating those of Others; This will Lead to the Exercise of

seek Peace and Not be apt to take Offence

mutual

mutual Forbearance & Forgiveneſs one of another by which the Occasion of Contention will be avoided and the Churches preserved in a State of Peace and Tranquility.

N°. 13. Concerning Epistles.

1696

1696. to be perused before read in the yearly Meeting

Ordered, That all Epistles Directed to the Yearly Meeting, not already read by the second-Days-Morning Meeting be perused and considered by Persons appointed by the Yearly Meeting, before they are Publickly read in the said Meeting.

1698

1698 answers

Ordered, That the answers to the several foreign Epistles when Drawn, be brought to the second days Morning Meeting before sent, and Copies left there.

1701

1701

See Correspondents, page, 75.

1702

1702 answers

Agreed, That when Anjwers are Drawn up to the several Epistles, they be shewn unto the second Days Morning Meeting, and sent as formerly and the Epistles left there.

1709 & 1713.

1709 1713

See Correspondents, page, 75, & 76.

1715

1715 to be signed at the Mon. Meety and Meety for Sufferings

This Meeting Desires the Correspondents to make speedy Answers to the Epistles Delivered them, and that the same, when prepared, be brought to the Morning Meeting, and the Meeting for Sufferings, in Order to be Signed.

1719

1719 Epistles from foreign parts

Whereas it is Observed, that in some Epistles from foreign parts, mention is made that they are Signed by Order and in behalf of the said Meetings, but no notice that they have been Read & Approved there, it is therefore Desired that Due Care be taken that

as

Epistles

1719 as often as may be, Such Epistles may be Read and approved in those Meetings, and Expressed in the Epistles they have been so: The Correspondents for foreign parts to give them notice hereof.

1728

1728 to be sent to all parts where friends are

'Tis referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to take care to send Epistles to all the American Islands and other Places abroad in the British or other Dominions where any Friends are Resident.

1730.

1730 The Meeting for Sufferings to answer Epistles & to write to all other places where friends are altho no Epistle be received

This Meeting Recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due care to see that the Correspondents for forcign Countries, Answer the several Epistles received from thence; and also to write to the several Distant places in the World, wherewithall this Meeting hath heretofore Corresponded, where any Friends are, Notwithstanding at any time this Meeting may not have any account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise: and that all such Answers allowed, be Signed by the Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of this Yearly Meeting.

N.o 14. Concerning Visiting of Families

1708

1708 . Forasmuch as a Godly Care is growing among Friends in many Places, that all things which are Unsavory and hurtful might be Removed, that so all that Profess the Precious Truth with us, may come up together in the good Order of the Gospel; for the furthering of which and Incourageing thereunto, It is Recommended, That Weighty and Sensible Friends of Unblamable Conversations, be Chosen in the Wisdom of God, to Visit the Families of Friends in His Love; Who are Desired to Advise or Admonish in the Peaceable spirit of Truth, as Occasion may be Seen.

advice to visit Families See 1698. p. 100

1710

1710 We Esteem it very necessary and Requisite, that young Convinced, and well inclined Persons & Friends, be early visited in the Love of God, by Faithful Friends, for their Encouragement, help & Furtherance in the Truth: And that the Christian Duty of Visiting the Sick, be timely Remembred and Practised, it having often left Comfort Ease & Sweetness upon the spirits of many to their very End.

to visit young Convinced Friends & the Sick

1729

1729 And we would hope, if Friends in their Monthly Meetings, should pursuant to the Directions of this Meeting in the Epistle, 1708, appoint proper Sensible and honest Friends to Visit their Respective Members, it may in great Measure prevent the Necessity of Repeating the Advices which have been so frequently given.

1731

1731 See Children — page 47

Families.

1733

1733 We again Recommend to Friends in their Several Monthly Meetings to take Especial care to appoint proper Prudent and Judicious Friends to Visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant to former Advices, viz.t in the Epistles 1708 & 1729. here with sent; and that such Friends Labour Faith=fully in a Spirit of Love and in the Meekness of Wis=dom, to Convince the Judgment of their Respective Members of the Necessity of their Coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Pro=fession, That so the Several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Ancients and us to bear may be Maintained Unviolated.

to appoint Friends to visit families

p: 117

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 173.

1737

1737 And Dear Friends, having Received very Comfortable accounts from Divers Places, of the good Disposition raised in the Minds of young Per=sons to walk in that Plainness & Self Denial which have been often Recommended by this Meeting; We Earnestly Desire, that Parents and Guardians, and Friends every Where, would Watch over such, and Encourage & Cherish every thing that may Contribute to their Growth & Progress in the Ways of Truth and Holiness: and for the Strength & Encouragement of every such Well Disposed young Person We earnest=ly Exhort Masters & Mistresses of Families to be Exemplary, and to Enforce their Advice by an agree=able Conversation or Practice and in no wise to dis=courage, but Encourage both their Children & Servants in that Plainness of speech and Behaviour which the Truth Leads to.

Fighting

No 15 Concerning Fighting.

1693

1693 against carrying Guns in Ships

A Complaint being made about some Ship-Mas=ters Who Profess the Truth, and are Esteemed Quakers, their Carrying Guns in their Ships, — Supposing thereby to Defend and Secure themselves and their Ships, Con=trary to their former Practice and Principle and to the Endangering their own and others Lives thereby; also giving Occasion of more severe hardships and Sufferings to be inflicted on such Friends as are press=ed into Ships of War, Who for Conscience sake cannot fight nor Destroy Mens Lives: 'Tis therefore Recom=mended to the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings whereunto Such Ship-Masters Belong, to Deal with them in Gods Wisdom and tender Love, to stir them up and awaken their Consciences, that they may Serious=ly Consider how they injure their own Souls in so doing, and what Occasion they give to make the Truth and Friends to Suffer by their Declention and acting Contrary thereunto, thro Disobedience and Unbelief, placing their Security in that which is Altogether insecure and Dangerous; which we are really Sorry for, and Sincerely Desire their Recovery, and safety from Destruction, that their Faith and Confidence may be in the arm and Power of God. — See more in the same Printed Epistle.

1709

1709 The foregoing Advice still Recommended

1730

1730 against bearing Arms or fighting

It hath been a Weighty Concern on this Meeting That our Ancient and Honourable Testimony Against Friends being Concerned in bearing Arms, or fighting may be Maintained it being a Doctrine

and

1730 and Testimony agreeable to the Nature and Design of the Christian Religion, and to the Universal Love & Grace of God, this Testimony we Desire may be strictly and carefully Maintained by a Godly care and Concern in all to stand Single and Clear therein, so shall we strengthen & Comfort one another.

1742

1742 See Questions, page, 272.

1744

1744 It having been in pressing terms Represented and Complained of to this Meeting, that notwithstanding We have, as a People, Looked upon Ourselves as well as the Primitive Christians, to be Included in that Notable Prophecy, Isaiah 2d they Shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their Spears into pruning hooks, and Learn War no more: Agreeable to the Doctrine of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, to which our Ancient Friends abundantly bore Testimony, both in Doctrine & Practice and Suffered Deeply for, and Confirmed and Ratified by Several of our Yearly Meetings, particularly in the year 1693, 1709 and 1730, by their Express Declarations & Testimonies against Carrying Guns for Defending our Ships Persons and goods: and being under many strong Engagements to Observe the same, from the particular Care of Providence over such as have been Faithful to this our Testimony, particularly Those of Our Friends in Pennsilvania. ——

Testimony against War

Nevertheless some Professing to be of Our Society have of late Slighted and Neglected this our Ancient and Christian Testimony to that Degree, as to be Concerned in Privateering Or as Owners in ships going with Letters of Marque, which is a flagrant and Lamentable Departure from our Peaceable Principle which hath always been to Confide in the Protection

privateering &c

and

1744 and Providence of Almighty God, and not in weapons of War; which Practice of theirs may be attended with Injustice, Barbarity and Bloodshed.

This Meeting therefore having taken this sorrowful & afflicting Case, and Breach of our Ancient Testimony, into our Serious Consideration, have thought it our Incumbent Duty, to bear our Testimony against such Practices: and 'tis the Unanimous Sense of this Meeting, That all Quarterly and Monthly Meetings ought Speedily to Deal with every Person found in the Practice of such things, in the Spirit of Truth and Love, in Order to bring them to a Sense of their Error, and to reclaim them from it; which if they cannot do, then to Testifie against them, and Let them know, We have no Unity or Fellowship with Them.

and See Questions, page, 273

No. 16. Concerning Kings & Governours

1689.

1689 to give no offence to those in Government

Advised to walk wisely & circumspectly towards all Men in the Peaceable spirit of Christ Jesus, giving no offence nor occasions to those in Outward Government; nor way to any Controversies heats or Distractions of this World about the Kingdoms of it; but Pray for the Good of all, and submit all to that Divine Power and Wisdom which Rules over the Kingdoms of Men.

1690

1690

It is Advised, That Friends be Circumspect and not make it their Business to Discourse of the Outward Powers but to Discourage all such things:

And Dear Friends, altho we gave plain and Christian Advice & Admonition last year, for Friends to be ware of all airey Discourses, Disputes & Controversies about the Kingdoms of this World, that all might walk wisely & circumspectly, in Subjection to the Divine and over ruling Power & Wisdom of God: yet Contrariwise, to Our Grief, We have heard too much Complaint and Reflections Occasioned by some, who have not observed a true Bridle to their Tongues; but have been too busy loose and airey in Discourses of that Nature: and therefore we do Exhort & Admonish all such, in the fear of God, and as they have Respect unto his holy Truth, and Innocent People, and their own Safety, to be watchful, careful & Circumspect for the time to Come, that none may Suffer as busy bodies, nor bring Suffering or Reproach, or Cause Jealousies to be raised upon or against others that are Innocent, and Singly Desire the Preservation Safety and Peace of all Friends in Truth & Innocency towards all Men.

1692

1692 This Meeting was well Satisfied and very Glad in the Sense they had of the Innocency & peaceableness of the Body of our Friends in General towards the Civil Government; under which we live and Enjoy our Present Liberty in the Peaceable Exercise of our Tender Consciences toward Almighty God to whom we are humbly thankful for the same; being Obliged to Demean ourselves not only as a grateful People, but as a Christian Society to Live peaceably and Inoffencively under the Present Government; as we have always Done under the various Revolutions of Government, ever since we were a People, according to our Ancient Christian Principle & Practice in which, we hope, we shall ever persevere to the End of our Days, according as we are Enjoined by our Peaceable Saviour Christ Jesus, and the Christian advice of his Faithful Servants & Ministers among us; We being a People Clear in the Sight of God from all evil Designs Plots & Conspiracies Whatsoever; and hope in God that We shall Continue a People always Quiet in the Land having nothing but Love and Good Will to all Men; for which End we Earnestly Desire & hope that a Christian care may not be wanting among you for the Preservation of Our whole Society in that Innocent Life & Peaceable Conversation, which is agreeable to Our Christian Principle & Profession, wherein we have from the Beginning found our safety, and peace with God, and Him to be our Defence, being fully Perswaded, this Our Ancient Christian Testimony Publickly Owned among us, None can gainsay, Nor any Faithful Friends to God and Christ can ever Decline it, being Assured Our God will in his own Due time remove all Offences and Causeless Jealousies & Reproaches tending to Cloud our Innocency, and will Set his own Power and Peaceable Kingdom of his Dear Son over all

thankful Acknowledgment of the favour of the Government

to live Peaceably under it

Kings & Governours

1695

1695 See Parliament, page 215

1698

1698 Testimony against Defrauding the Government

This Meeting Understanding that some in the Government have Reported, that some Persons who are Called Quakers have used secret and indirect ways to take up their Goods without paying the Customs & Duties which the Law hath laid upon them, whereby the King is Defrauded of his Right.

This Meeting thereupon Declares it to be the Judgment of Truth & Friends, that all such practices are evil; and that if any Person who Professeth Truth should be Guilty thereof, such Persons would thereby go out of Truth, and act Contrary thereunto.

1703.

1703 not to Defraud the Government

Advised, to avoid all indirect & Unwarrantable Methods both in trade and Merchandize, by which the Government may be Defrauded of its Due, that so no Reproach may be brought upon our holy Profession by such Things.

1705

1705 to walk worthy of the favour of the Government

Since the Lord's Good Providence has so far Blessed Friends as to Give them Favour with the Government, It is Desired that Friends would Continue with all Humility to walk Worthy of that Mercy; and Improve the same by a Gentle & peaceable Conversation towards all Men, in their respective places of abode.

1709

1709 not to Diminish Customs &c

Advised, not to put any abuse on the Government by Endeavouring to Diminish any of the Customs, Excise, or any other Publick Civil Dues, —— Yet if any Friend going under our Profession should happen

to

1709

to deal with the guilty

against being concerned in prohibited goods & Wrecks

to be so far Tempted thro Covetousness and the Love of unrighteous gain, as to be drawn into any such Evil We Desire you will Deal with such Persons to make them sensible of such Corrupt & penicious Practices, that Our holy Profession may not be Blemished thereby: Nor any offence given nor Injury done by being Concerned in prohibited goods; or Wrecks Unrighteously taken away from the just Owners

1715

1715

As the Blessed Truth we Profess teacheth us to do justly unto all Men in all things, even so more Especially in a Faithful Subjection to the Government in all Godliness and Honesty, Continuing to render unto the King what is his Due in Taxes & Customs payable to him according to Law.

1719

1719

against defrauding the King & Exporting wool or other goods prohibited by Law.

As our Testimony hath ever been, and still is against the Defrauding the King of any of his Customs Duties or Excise buying Goods reasonable Suspected to be Run; Exporting Wool, or any other Goods prohibited by Law, or doing any other thing whatsoever to the Injury of the Kings Revenues, or of the Common Good, or to the hurt of the fair Trader; So if any Person or Persons under our name and Profession, shall be known to be Guilty of these or any such Crimes and offences; We do Earnestly Advise the Respective Monthly Meetings to which such Offenders belong, that they Severely reprehend and Testify against such Offenders and their unwarrantable Clandestine and Unlawful Actions, and Admonish them to make Restitution for the Wrong done to the Government, and the Holy Truth Professed by Us.

offenders to be Testified against

1721

1721

The Advice of 1719 repeated

Kings & Governours

1723

1723 See Questions, page, 271.

1730

1730 Advised, That Friends behave with all Dutifulness and Gratitude, and Especially to Discountenance every the least appearance of indecent freedom or mark of Dissatisfaction in word or Writing Relating to the Government.

1732

1732 It is very acceptable to us to find by the accounts from the Several parts of the Kingdom, that according to former Exhortations of this Meeting. Friends Continue Generally careful not to Defraud the King of his Customs Duties or Excise; And so far to Discourage such Practices, as to avoid Dealing in Goods Reasonably suspected to be Run; this is a Care highly Commendable and no Doubt Incumbent on every honest Subject; But as the Govern=ment hath Signally favoured Us, in Our Religious Liberties, We are under the greater Obligations of Gratitude as well as Duty, to Manifest that we are as truly Conscientious to render to Caesar the things that are Caesars as to Support any other Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1733

1733 The last Years Advice again Recommended.

1734

1734 We are glad to hear by the accounts received that Friends are Generally found in the Practice of their Christian Duty of rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesars; and do Earnestly recommend a strict care for the Continuance of the same in every Branch of the Kings Revenue.

1735

1735 The Advices we have Received of the General care of Friends to keep clear from Defrauding the King

in

1735 in any Branch of His revenue, are very acceptable to Us who hold it our Indispensible Duty with regard to Kings, and all that are in Authority, to lead a Quiet and Peaceable Life in all Godliness & honesty.

1736

1736 By accounts from the several Counties We do not understand but that Friends are clear from the Practice of running of goods, or Defrauding the King of his Customs or Revenues: We Earnestly Re=commend the Continuance of that Necessary Duty and Desire that Friends Every Where may be Careful to Discourage such Practices, which are not only unjust but also inconsistant with that gratitude which we as a People ought to Express towards a Go=vernment, to whose Lenity & Goodness we are Obliged for the Priviledges we Enjoy.

1737

1737 Finally Brethren We Recommend you to the Direction and guidance of the Unerring Spirit of Truth within, and the Excellent precepts and Instructions of the holy Scriptures without which if you shall Diligent=ly take heed unto, you will not fail of being perfectly Instructed in the great Duties of worship towards God the Father and author of all our Mercies of Fidelity and Gratitude to the Government, Which his Merciful Providence has set over Us, of Love & Peace among your selves and of Justice & Benevolence towards all Men

1735

1735 Agreed and Concluded at the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island that Whereas there is a Matter referred to this Meeting Relating to Friends Signing Commissions to Support the Millitary Affairs it is the Judgment & Conclusion of this Meeting that it is Contrary to Our Principles and whosoever has or shall presume to Sign Such Commissions acts Con=trary to our Principles and the Anciet Testimony of Friends.

Signing Commissi=ons for Millitary affairs

Kings & Governours

N°17 Concerning Law.

1675

1675 It is the Meeting doth not Enjoin, Impose upon, or advise any Friends in Sufferings to take Course at Law for a Remedy, so neither can we Impose upon them not to use the Law in any Case; But a Freedom is left to the Sufferers to use such Means as Consists with the Unity of Friends, and their own Peace and Satisfaction in the Truth an in the bearing a Faithful Testimony in Righteousness.

Friends at Liberty to Defend themselves at Law or not.

That Friends do not Judge nor Reflect upon one another in those Cases; a Freedom being left upon Urgent Occasions, to take such Course for Relief & Ease to the Oppressed as may not be Prejudicial to Truths Testimony.

not to Reflect upon one another therefor

That if any Friend or Friends apprehend a Necessity to Endeavour for Relief by the Law of the Land to stop the Destroyers &c., They first advise about their Case with their Respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings; or at least with some of the Principle Friends Relating thereto.

to advise with their Meeting

That Friends who Suffer be advised not to Let out their Minds into too Much Expectation of outward Relief by Friends here in point of Law; But that they Patiently and Principally Depend upon the Lord, and his Power to plead their Cause.

1676

1676 That Friends be Careful of Entangling themselves in the Law, because of some small Irregularities in Proceeding; but if the Law be materialy Transgressed, and the severity of it Exceeded by our Persecutors; That Friends in Gods Wisdom Use their Liberty, upon Serious and good advice among themselves, So as the Truth and its Testimony may be kept Clear over all.

Jan

1693
1696
1697

1693, 1696, 1697.

See Arbitrations, page, 9. 10 & 11. 12.

1698

1698

See Kings & Governours, page 129

1720
1725
1737

1720, 1725, 1737.

See Arbitrations, page. 13 & 15

1744

1744

A Minute of this Meeting in 1720 Advised That Persons Professing with us have proved so base and unworthy, as when they have run themselves into Debt, to Remove themselves or their Effects to prevent Justice; Whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been Deprived of an Opportunity of the Common Method of Friends specified in the Minute aforesaid;[b] It is hereby Declared that the last paragraph of the said Minute, which prohibits Friends to Sue or arrest One another &c — Is not intended to prevent such evil Persons in those Practices from being Dealt with by a Legal Process, as the Nature of the Case may require; of which Circumstance the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, so it is not Doubted but they will do Justice to the parties Concerned therein.

a. see arbitrations p. 14.

b refers to a minute in 1697 See arbitrations p. 12 & 14

This Meeting Doth Request every Monthly Meeting to appoint and Depute proper Persons out of their Several Meetings, for such Friends as may have Occasion, to advise with in the Intervals of Monthly Meetings and if they See Cause, to Give Liberty to Recover as above.

Love.

N° 18. Concerning Love.

1703

1703 See Discipline, page, 100.

1718

1718 See Yearly Meeting, page. 415

1730

1730 Among all the Gospel precepts We find not any thing more Strongly & Frequently recommended by our Lord Jesus Christ, and his Apostles, to the Primitive Be-lievers, than that they Should Love One another: And as We are Sensible that nothing will more Contribute to the Peace and Prosperity of the Church than a Due Regard to this Advice, so We Earnestly Desire, that it may be the Care & Concern of all Friends Every where to dwell therein; and in the Unity of the Holy Spirit to maintain Love Concord & Peace in and among all the Churches of Christ.

1734 1734. See Scriptures, page, 319

1735 1735. See Discipline, page, 101, 102

1736 1736 See Disputes, page, 109

N° 19 Concerning Marriage.

1675

1675 against marriage with near kindred

It is our Living Sense & Judgment in the Truth of God, that not only those Marriages of near Kindred, Expresly forbidden under the Law, ought not to be Practiced under the Gospel; But that in as much as any Marriage of near Kindred in the times of the Law was in Condescention and upon such Extraordinary Occasions as upholding their Tribes; and that the nearer their Marriages were the more unholy they were accounted: We in our day ought not to approach our Near kindred in any such respect, particularly First Cousins; being Redeemed out of those kindreds Tribes and Earthly Lots, (for the Upholding of which Marriages within the kindred were once Dispensed with) and brought to that Spiritual Dispensation which gives Dominion over the Affections, and Leads to those Marriages which are more Natural and are of better report. And tho some through weakness have been Drawn into such Marriages (which being done must not be broken) Yet Let not their Practice be any precedent or Example to any Others amongst Us for the time to Come.

particularly first Cousins

That such Friends as have with Serious advice, Due Deliberation, free & Mutual Consent, as in the sight of God, and Unity of his Blessed Truth, Absolutely agreed Espoused or Contracted upon the Account of Marriage, Shall not be allowed or Owned among Us, in any Unfaithfulness or Injustice One to another, to break or Violate any such Contract or Engagement, which is to the Reproach of Truth, or Injury one of another: and where any such Injury breach or Violation of such Solemn Contract is known, or Complained of, or Enmity or Strife Occasioned thereby; We advise & Counsel, that a few Faithful Friends, Both

to break or Violate any Engagem.t not to be allowed

men

Marriage

1675

Men and Women in their respective Meetings to which the parties belong, be appointed to Enquire into the Cause thereof; and in the Wisdom and Counsel of God, to put a stop and Speedy End thereto; and bring Gods Power and the Judgment thereof over them that have offended in this case, until they come to Unfeigned Repentance.

Consent of Parents to be first had

And further We advise & Exhort that no Engagements made, without honest Endeavours to obtain or Due regard first had to the Counsel & Consent of Parents Relations and Friends be Countenanced: that so all foolish and unbridled Affections, and all Ensnaring and selfish Ends be not so much as found among you on any hand.

to be twice proposed at least to the Meetings

(See page 148.

and accomplished Publickly

It is our Judgment, that for better Satisfaction to all Parties, and that there may be Due time for Enquiry of Clearness of the Persons Concerned, It is Convenient that Marriages be at least twice propounded to the Meetings that are to take Care therein, both to the Mens and Womens Meetings, where both are Established, before they are Accomplished; and when things are Cleared, that the Marriage be Accomplished in a grave and Publick Assembly of Friends & Relations

1690

1690

outward Estates to be settled before Engaged

Advised that Parents and Guardians of Children in the Fear of God take Special Care to prevent those under their Charge, from being Engaged or Entangled with any upon the Account of Marriage, before all things relating to their outward Estates be firmly agreed on both parts that so no Breach may be made upon the account of Outward things, to the hurt or Prejudice of young People.

And We do also in the Name of the Lord Advise and Exhort all young and Unmarried

People

1690

Young people to Consult their parents & wait their Consent & in the first place to wait upon the Lord &c

People among Friends, that they do not make any motion or Proceedure one with another upon the Account of Marriage, without first acquainting their Parents or Guardians therewith, and duly waiting upon them for their Consent & Agreement therein; And we do also advise, That in the first place all young Persons Concerned, Seriously wait upon the Lord for Counsel & Clearness in this Weighty Concern, before they make any motion or Procedure with any in Order to Marriage, that the Lord may be in their Eye, so as they may not be Led by any forward, brittle or Uncertain Affections in this great Concern, to their own hurt, Grief of their Friends and Dishonour of Truth.

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to be Careful herein.

And Let it be the Godly Concern of both Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to be Careful & Mindful of the Preservation and Good of Children in this Matter, as here proposed & Signified, and not Omit giving due and faithful Warnings & Admonitions in this great and Weighty Concern.

1691

1691 Concerning Orderly Proceedings

Advised, That great care be taken about Marriages, for the Consent of parents; Due and Orderly Publication thereof and Solemnizing of them in a Meeting appointed for that End & purpose, or on week day Meetings which Method is Convenient and Commendable, as it has been lately made appear in the Eye of the Government and Well Resented.

See 1675 p. 145 near kin by Priests mixt Marriages & too Early a second time

And that Friends be reminded of this Meetings former Advice, against Marriage with near kindred; and against Marrying by Priests; and with Persons of the World, Unequally Yoking with Unbelievers; — and against too Early and Unsavory Proceedings in Second Marriages, after the Death of Husband or Wife; Contrary to the due Method or Practice of faithful Friends in Truth, and tending to the Dishonour and Reproach thereof.

1692

Marriage

1692.

1692 to be proposed to two Mon: Meetg! or to two Two Weeks Meetings

Advised That all such as Profess the Truth among Friends, To Publish their Intentions of Marriage at two Sundry Monthly Meetings at least, Or at two Sundry two Weeks Meetings in such places where they are settled, before they Solemnize the same, that Convenient time may be allowed friends Concerned for Enquiry, and Satisfaction, Concerning the Consent of Parents and Guardians, and their Clearness from all Scandal and Precontracts; That Friends may Own and Stand by their Proceedings befor the Government and all in Authority, which Otherwise they cannot, if they Proceed not in the due & Orderly Publication and Method of Truth, Settled among Friends; being a Matter greatly Enquired into truly Warrantable, and to be stood by.

See 1691 p. 147 & 1675 p. 146

1695

1695 against Marrying with those not of our Profession nor without Consent of Parents nor with near kin

And that all Diligent Care and Caution be had that no Friend or Friends Children, be betrayed in Affection or Otherwise Nor Join in Marriage with those who are not of our Christian Profession and Society nor without the privity and Consent of Parents, Guardians, or Lawful Tutors Intrusted with them; nor with any near kindred Contrary to the Law of God, and wholesome advice already given them; particularly by a yearly Meetings Epistle 1675, and Otherwise by the Faithful Servants of Christ.

1707

1707

We being Sensible of the hurt that may happen by Persons Under the Profession of Truth, in drawing out the Affections of One another, without the knowledge & Consent of Parents or Guardians, Do for Preventing such Mischief, Deliver it as our Sense and Judgment that in Case any Person reputed a Quaker shall Endeavour to Entangle the Affections

of

1707

if any Endeavour to Entangle the Affections of a young Woman Without Consent of Parents not to be allowed

of any Young Woman Professing Truth, or shall make suit unto Her in Order to Marriage, without the privity & Consent of her Parents or Guardians first had and Obtained whether such Parents or Guardians be friends or not, that such Persons ought not to be allowed or permitted to proceed in any Meeting of Friends in order to the accomplishing such intended Marriage, Until they shall have Removed the Offence, and given Satisfaction both to Such Parents or Guardians, and to the Meeting of Friends to which they do belong, by an open and Due Acknowledgment of the Offence, and Condemnation of themselves therefore, and shall have Obtained the Consent of such Parents or Guardians.

parent to not to break off on Worldly accounts

And it is further Advised, that after Parents and Guardians have Suffered their Children to Engage One Another in Affections, they do not break off upon any Worldly Account, but will wait upon and Seek the Lord for their Children, in proposals of Marriage, before they give any Encouragement thereunto.

1708

1708

Advised to be Carefully & Zealously Concerned for our Ancient Christian Testimony against Mixt Marriages that none of your Children may be Corrupted and Alienated from the Truth thereby.

1709

1709

second Cousins

With Respect to a Proposal of Marriage between Second Couzins; This Meeting Declares, it is not Safe for Friends to Encourage any such Marriages, in any of our Meetings.

1710

1710

We Advise, that a Due Care be upon all Parents and Guardians, of Children and Youth to watch over them and Tenderly to Exhort them to Seek the Lord in that Weighty Affair of Marriage and to wait upon him in the Light, for Counsel and Direction of his holy Spirit in that Great Concern, that his Blessing may be

upon

1710

not to make the World the Ground of Choice

upon them; In order to which Let None make the Earth & the World the ground of their Choice, For that will not procure the Blessing, but the Contrary; and will Grieve the Lord, may spoil Families, and bring an Exercise on the Church of Christ.

1715

1715 See plainness, page 226

1718

1718 against Excessive Sumptuous Entertainm:s

A Testimony against Running into Excessive Sumptuous & Costly Entertainments at Marriage Dinners, a great Part of Which would be better Employed in Relieving the Necessities of the Poor.

1719

1719 Endeavours to be used to prevent mixt Marriages

In Order to put a stop to an Undue Liberty in Contracting Marriages with such as are not of our Society, It is Advised, That all Parents and Guardians of Children, do take Special Care as much as in them lieth to prevent their Children from running into such Marriages; And that Friends of Each Particular Meeting as also of the Monthly Meeting to which such Persons belong, do in the Wisdom and Power of Truth, Use their Endeavours to put a stop to the said Evil, by admonishing such as may attempt to marry as aforesaid, to Desist before they Accomplish the same: But if they Refuse to take Counsel or privately go on to Marry as aforesaid, that then such Persons be Dealt with according to the good Order of Truth and Judgment fixed upon all such as take such an Undue Liberty.

and if any Do so marry they are to be dealt with

1722

1722 advice to Parents

Parents who have Children to Dispose of in Marriage, are tenderly Advised, not to make it their first or Chief Care to Obtain for them Large Portions or Settlements of Marriage, but rather be

Careful

1722 Careful that their Children be joined in Marriage with Persons of Religious Inclinations, Suitable Dis=position, Temper, Sobriety of Manners, and Diligence in Business; which are things Essentially Neccsary to a Comfortable Life in a Married Estate:—and Carefully to guard against all Mixt Marriages and Unequal Yoking of their Children therein.

ag.st mixt marriages

1723

1723 As Parents have a Natural Right to approve of and Consent to the Marriage of their Children So this Meeting doth Earnestly Desire, That Friends Children would Consult and advise with their Parents & Guardians in that Great and Weighty Point, so Essential to their happiness & Comfort, before they Let out their Minds or do Entangle their Affections: The too frequent Examples that have happened to the Contrary hereof have Caused Lamentation in honest Parents, and great Affliction to themselves.

Children to advise with parents or Guardians

1724

1724 Advised that care and Enquiry be seasonably made to Prevent Ill designing Persons in their Endeavour to Intangle the Affections of our Youth in Relation to Mar=riage; the Unhappy Disobedience of some therein ha=ving frequently brought Deep Affliction on their tender Parents, and Misery on themselves: And on this Occasion, We again tenderly Desire, that Parents or Guardians do not make Earthly Riches a Chief view or Cause of Consent in Marriage.

to prevent ill designing persons from Intangling the Affections of Youth

1727

1727 The advice in the year 1695. repeated.

1730

1730 We also Recommend the Good Order of Friends Relating to Marriage that it be Carefully preserved and duly Maintained, in the first and Earliest

proceedings

1730 the good order of Friends relating to marriage to be Maintaind

Proceedings leading thereunto, as well as the Orderly Solemnization thereof: and if any Persons, Contrary to the repeated advice and Established Order of Friends, should under any pretence Whatsoever presume to take One another in any Meeting for Worship Without the Consent of the Monthly Meeting to which they belong; such proceeding being of a Clandestine Nature tending to make void the just Care of Friends in that Case, which is of good Esteem among the People; We advise that the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to Testify agains the Practice, as well as against the Persons Concerned therein.

1734

1734 And We do Exhort Friends Every where, that in the great Concern of Marriage, whereon much of the Comfort & happiness of Life Depends, they be mindful to proceed in the fear of the Lord, and have an Eye to him for Counsel & Instruction in their Choice; The Neglect of which has been the ruin of many Families, and tended much to the Reproach and Dishonour of Our holy Profession.

1738

1738 See the Printed Epistle of 1738

1741

1741 This Meeting having Delibcrately Considered the great Exercise brought upon our Society by divers in Profession with Us, Who Contrary to our Principles and that Wholesome Discipline Established amongst Friends, Do Marry by the Priests with those not in Communion with Us, and some who both Profess with Us, Join in Marriage in the same manner; It's therefore Earnestly Requested of all Friends, that they Use their utmost Endeavours to prevent all such Marriages whensoever the Party's Intentions may

those who Marry by the Priests to be Dealt with

come

1741 come to their knowledge; And that all Monthly Meetings where such Marriages may happen, Immediately Deal with the Offenders for their Out=goings, and Endeavour in the Wisdom of Truth to bring them to a true Sense of their Disorderly Practice: And if the Labour of Friends should have so good an Effect, that they in Sincerity give a Testimony under their hands, Condemning their said Practice, to the Satisfacti=on of the Monthly Meeting; In such Case Friends are Desired to Use tenderness towards them; But if the Christian Care of Friends do not prevail to bring them to a true Sense of their Error, then the Monthly Mee=ting is hereby Directed to give forth a Testimony a=gains such, for the Clearing of Truth and Friends.

And it is the Sense of this Meeting, That where any Marry Contrary to the Rules of our Society as aforesaid, their Collection shall not be received by any Meeting, Nor they be Relieved in the Manner of Poor Friends: Nor be Admitted to sit in Meetings of Discipline, Until they are Restored into Unity with the Monthly Meetings to which they formerly belonged: Yet it is not hereby Intended to hinder the Charity of Friends in their Private Capacities, to Extend it when and to whom they shall see meet.

1744

1744 This Meeting having Deliberately Considered the great Exercise brought upon our Society by divers in Profession with Us, who Contrary to Our known Principles, and the Wholeson Discipline Established amongst Us, are Joined in Marriage by the Priest, with Persons either of Our own, or of other Perswasions, Do Earnestly Advise, that all Friends Use their Utmost En=deavours to Prevent such Marriages whensoever the Par=ty's Intentions may come to their knowledge.

and

Marriage

1744

those who do marry in any manner Contrary to our Rules to be dealt with

And it is the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting That where any do Marry by the Priest or in any other manner, Contrary to the Established Rules of the Society, they shall be dealt with in a spirit of Christian Love and tenderness, agreeable to our known Discipline: And that after the Commission of such Offence, and during such dealing, their Collection shall not be received Nor shall they be believed in the manner of Poor Friends Nor be admitted to sit in Meetings for Discipline Until they are restored into Unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

To deal in due time with such & all other Disorderly walkers

And We Earnestly Advise all Friends that you Watch diligently over One another for good, and that you deal in due time with such Offenders & all others that walk Disorderly Endeavouring to Reclaim and Restore them by Brotherly Admonition and Counsel; But where after Patient waiting, you find that your Continued Labour of Love hath not its Desired Effect; That you neglect not to Testify against and Disown such persons, thereby preventing the Reproach and Dishonour, which might be brought upon our holy Profession through their misconduct, and that the End and Design of Friends in Settling a Wholesom Discipline among Us may be Answered.—Which is Substituted in Lieu of the Minute made in 1741, respecting Marriages by Priests.

1745

1745

See Meetings for Discipline page 178.

1747

1747

against Marriages with first or second Cousins

This Meeting on Receiving a Minute Relating to Marriage of Persons near of kin, having taken into Consideration the Yearly Meeting Minute of 1675, made against such Marriages, and particularly of First Cousins, Do Declare it to be our Sense

and

1747 p. 145. 147

and Judgment, That no Monthly Meeting or Other Meeting whatsoever should pass First Cousins in Order for Marriage. And this Meeting Earnestly Desires all Friends whenever they know or hear of any first or second Cousins Designing or Intending to Marry, that they Im=mediately advise them against it.

See 1709 in p. 149.

1748

1748

This Meeting in Consideration of the Expediencie of having all our Marriage Certificates Stamped with one Five Shilling or Crown Stamps, as Marriage Certificates are Required by Law to be, Desires that all Monthly Meetings be very Careful to see the same be done, and also Orders that a Copy of this Minute be sent to the Several Counties that it may be duly Observed.

1749

1749

near of kin p. 145. 147 148. 149

Upon a Proposition Received Relating to the Marri=age of Persons near of kin; This Meeting appointed a Committee to Consider the same, Who brought in the following Report to which, being twice Read, the Mee=ting agreed, Viz.t:

We Your Committee appointed to Consider the paper Relating to Marriage, met Accordingly and ha=ving Considered the same and Examined the Scriptures Refered to, Are Unanimously of Opinion, that the Yearly Meeting Minutes 1675, and 1747 are to be Strictly Adhered to.

NB. Signed the 19th. 3 mo: 1749 by 43 Friends ——

It is our sense and Judgment that our Liberty for the marriage of Brothers children Sisters children Half Brother children half Sisters children first Cozens Children and all Persons Whom so ever nearer than Second Cozens and Second Cozens are advised to desist therefrom and if any notwithstanding should Proceed in marriage together

Marriage

Seaver this Second Cousins being Seriously
Cautioned and advised against it that the next
Meeting where such may belong Give forth a
Publick Testimony against them and not Receive
Such into unity again untill such meeting be
Well assured that such Persons have found a Real
& Sincere Repentance and are Received in the truth

1773 It is our Present sense and Judgment upon the
Query brought from Rhode Island Quarter whe-
ther it be Consistant with Truth for any friends
to marry with a Deceased wifes Sister or Deceased
Husbands Brother that friends be Carefull to
Give timely advice and admonition against
Such a Procedure and if any should be Reluc-
tant thereto and Proceed in marriage that
Such be without delay denied membership and
Testified against as having Committed an hei-
nous transgression and that such be not ad-
mitted to membership again in the Society
Untill Friends be well assured that they are
Received in the truth

1774 As to the matter from Dartmouth Monthly
Meeting Respecting marrying with near of kin
We approve and the Rule of the Society very
Clear and good in that Respect and that it
Ought to be Strictly adhered to nor Dartmouth
Nor any other monthly meeting suffer any
So nearly nearer of kin than is Tolerated by
The Discipline

1778 It is our Judgment that the Business Referred
In laying the intentions and Receiving answers
In Cases of Marriage in the monthly meeting
the same nature of the meetings other business and
they
Ought to be selected in the same manner as
particular circumstance attend that
meeting
quarterly Persons may be
at the business Provided
they have the consent of the meeting at
We have likewise Considred the Proposal on the 1st
Query Respecting what time shall
Be too early for Proposals of marriage
It is our Judgment that it is advisable for friends
Not to make or admit of Proposals of marriage in
So short then Twelve months after the Decease of for-
mer Husband or Wife

Meeting Houses

N° 20 Concerning Meeting Houses

1691

1691 all Meeting houses to be entered according to Law

Advised, That all and every your Meeting houses and Mansion houses where Meetings are or may be; be Entered upon Record as the Law Directs, each particularly; We having Seen both the Service and Safety thereof, and the hurt and Danger that may Come by the Omission.

1703

1703 Titles to be made Secure

Advised, that Friends in the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings take Special Care that the Titles of Friends Meeting houses & Burial grounds be made Secure According to Law: This Meeting Understanding there is a Deficiency in this Respect in some places.

1737

1737 Titles to be Inspected & Secured and to keep Records thereof

It having been Represented to Us that in divers parts of the Nation, Losses have been Sustained to Our Society, by not timely Looking into and Securing the Titles of Meeting houses, Burial grounds, and Charitable Bequests; We have thought fit to Recommend it to the Care of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to make timely Inspection in what hands and trusts the same are Secured, and if they find Occasion by the Death of any Friend or Friends to add some others to the trust, so that Friends may not be Deprived of the Benefit of such Meeting houses and Burial Grounds: And that each Quarterly Meeting keep exact Records of all such Trusts and Conveyances.

N° 21 Concerning Meetings for Discipline

1675

1675 of the Establishment of Mens & Womens Meetings

It is our Judgment and Testimony in the Word of Gods Wisdom, that the Rise and Practice, Setting up & Establishment of mens & Womens Meetings in the Church of Christ in this Our Generation, is according to the mind and Counsel of God, and done in the Ordering and Leading of his Eternal Spirit: And that is the duty of all Friends & Brethren in the Power of God, in all parts to be Diligent therein, and to Encourage and further each other in that Blessed Work, and particularly that Friends & Brethren in their Respective Counties Encourage their Faithful & grave Women in the Settlement of the said Meetings.

1676

1676 the authority and who have right thereunto

The Power of God is the authority of the Men's & Women's Meetings, and of all the other Meetings.

All the faithful Men & Women, in every Country City and Nation, Whose Faith stands in the Power of God the Gospel of Christ, and have received this Gospel, and are in the Possession of this Gospel, the Power of God, They have all right to the Power of the Meeting, for they be Heirs of the Power and the authority of the Men's & Women's Meetings.

1691

1691 Womens Meetings to be Encouraged & settled

Advised, To Encourage the faithful Womens Meetings and the Settling them where they are wanting, and may with Conveniency be Settled, knowing their Service, and what need there is also of their Godly Care in the Church of Christ in divers weighty respects proper to them.

1693

1693 To avoid Contention and Strife in all Meetings it is the advice and Sense of this Meeting,

1st That

Meetings for Discipline

1693 1st That all Friends have a Care of Gods Glory and be tender thereof as hath been often Advised.

2d To keep the Authority of your Meetings in the Power of God, and Unity of his Blessed Spirit, whereby they were Erected & Settled; and Continue your Godly Care & Services therein, for those good Ends for which they were first Instituted.

3d To keep out all Contention Personal Reflections and Smitings out of your Meetings, and keep down and out of all heats & Passions, and Doubtful Dis=putations.

4th Suffer no turbulent Contentious quarrelsome Spirit or Person to be Concerned among you in Or=dering your Affairs, that they may be all managed in the peaceable tender Spirit and Wisdom of Christ Jesus.

5th Suffer no Divisions or Schisms or making Par=ties, among your Selves, One against another; for that will greatly tend to weaken your Meetings and Looze their Power, and to Cause them and you to be Slighted.

6th Both Our Mens and Womens Meetings and Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, and Yearly Mee=tings, and Meetings for Sufferings, were Set Up in the Wisdom, Counsel, and tender Love of God, an in the same peaceable Wisdom to be kept, and Encouraged, for all those good Ends for which they were Intended & Appointed.

See Records, page, 279.

1696

1696 Let all Your Affairs be Managed in your Mee=tings in the peaceable Wisdom and Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ; not Striving, but bearing One with and for another that the Power of Christ may rest upon you and Rule in all your Assemblies.

1697

Meetings for Discipline

1697

1697 Advised, That Monthly and Quarterly Meetings keep up Our Christian Order, and Religious Discipline in the Church; That all Disorder & Looseness may be prevented.

1700

1700 Keep all your Meetings, as well those for good Order, Charity and Christian Discipline, as those set a part Entirely for the Worship of God, in His Love, and in the Name, Power & peaceable spirit of His Dear Son Jesus Christ; which is the alone true Authority of all Our Mee=
=tings, For without Him We can do nothing; And in His Blessed Power stand fast in Righteous Judgment, over all unruly and Disorderly spirits, that would break in upon the good Order & Discipline settled among us as well as over all those that seek to Lay wast the Tes=
=timony of Truth, and Cause the Offence of the Cross to Cease.

1703

1703 Our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings being set up and Established by the Power & in the Wisdom of God. which is the Authority of those Meetings; All Friends are tenderly Desired and Advised, Carefully to keep to and in that Authority; and therein manage all the Business and Affairs of the said Meetings, in Discharge of their Duty to God and His Church; and not expect or depend up=
=on this Meeting for particular Direction from time to time how they shall proceed in the Management of the Concerns of those Meetings relating to Truths Tes=
=timony & Service. But wait for and depend upon the Power & Wisdom of God, for Counsel & Direction in such matters & Cases as may come before them; which will be to the great Ease of this Meeting, and Dispatch of the proper Concerns thereof. — And Let the Mans part and Natural Wisdom and Attainments be subject to the Power and Spirit of God, which will truly Edify the Body in Love Righteousness and Peace.

not to depend upon the Q. Meeting for direction but upon the Power & Wisdom of God

And

Meetings for Discipline

1703 such as Decline to be dealt with

And if any Decline from or Let fall any Branch of their Testimony that such may in the Wisdom and Authority of Truth be Dealt with and therein Mercy and Judgment Exercised in their proper Places.

1704

1704 We tenderly Recommend & Desire that those Friends that are Concerned in the Management of the Affairs of the Church, in the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, be Careful to act in the Wisdom of God, that they may be Exemplary therein to those that are Young: and that those that are Worthy to be Esteemed Members of those Meetings, be Diligent in attending the same; and that they will Encourage such young Men & Women as they are Sensible are Qualified, and made Capable thro' waiting upon God, to Serve Truth in your Respective Meetings that they may Come up and Stand in the Life of Righteousness to be Serviceable in the Church, helpful to Ancient Friends and fitted to supply their places as such shall be Removed.

1705

1705 'Tis Advised and Desired, that in all Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, Friends take great Care to manage the Affairs of Truth, in a Calm meek and gentle spirit without heats Discord and Contention; "For if any seem to be Contentious, we have no such Custom in the Churches of God. 1. Cor: 11: 16." And the Apostles advice also was, "That nothing should be done through strife
" or vain Glory; But in Lowliness of mind Let each Es-
" teem other better than themselves; and do all things
" without murmurings and Disputings, Philip 2: 3 & 14.
" which Apostolical Counsel and good Order We desire may be kept to and Carefully Observed.

1706

1706 Advised, to keep all Meetings, both those for Divine Worship, and those for good Order and Discipline in

the

1706 the Church in the Name and Power of our Lord Jesus Christ, which Divine Power we all ought to wait to feel to prepare and Sanctify our minds & Spirits that we may be Duly Qualified for our share & part of Our Service therein; and in the same Heavenly Power & Dominion Labour to keep out Strife & Contention, and stand over all forward and Contentious Spirits, not in your own, but in the Meek spirit of the Lamb of God.

See Questions, page, 270.

1707

1707 Our Womens Meetings being set up and approved in the Love of God, and by His Wisdom & Power, and of Manifest Service and helpful in the Church, It is the Earnest desire and advice of this Meeting they may be upheld and Encouraged where they are Settled, by Monthly & Quarterly Meetings and that in such Counties and Places where they are not, it be the Care of the Quarterly Meetings to Endeavour they may be set up and Encouraged in proper & Convenient places, where they may be most Serviceable and helpful.

Womens Meetings to be Encouraged

1709

1709 This Meeting Desires that the Accounts of the Prosperity of Truth &c, that are brought in writing from the Several Quarterly Meetings to this Meeting, Be Signed at or by Order of the Quarterly Meetings.

1713

1713 See Preachers, page — 252.

1715

1715 Agreed, That no Monthly Meeting shall be allowed to Divide it self into two Seperate Monthly Meetings, either by Reason of the Decrease of Love, or any other Difference among them in that Meeting, without the Consent or Concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting.

no monthly Meeting to Divide it self

And Let none Exercise Rule or Government in the Church as Elders or Overseers but such who are Unblameable in Conversation and Example, free from

Elders & overseers

Covetousness

1715 Elders & overseers

Covetousness, over-reaching Oppression & Extortion & Persons of good Report, even among those who are without; following those things so Earnestly Recommended by the holy Apostles Paul and Peter, Philip. 2. " .3. Let nothing be done through Strife and vain glory, " but in Lowliness of mind Let each esteem other better " than themselves, 1 Pet.r 5. 2. 3 Feed the flock of God " which is among you, taking the Oversight thereof " not by Constraint but willingly, not for filthy Lucre " but of a ready mind, Neither as being Lords over God's " Heritage, but being Examples to the Flock".

See Meetings for Worship, page. 186.

1717

1717 Recommended, That Friends, but more Especially such as are Concerned in Meetings of Business do Labour to know their own Spirits Subjected by the Spirit of Truth, that thereby being Baptized into one Body they may be truly one in the Foundation of their Love and Unity; and that therein they may all Labour to find a nearness to Each other in Spirit, this being the true way to a thorough Reconciliation, wherever there is or may have been any Difference of Apprehension; thereby Friends will be Preserved in that Sweetness of spirit, that is and will be the Bond of true Peace throughout all the Churches of Christ.

1718

1718 . Advised, that nothing be done through strife & Contention, or vain glory, murmuring or Disputing, but in the spirit of meekness Love & humility carry your selves toward one another. And the Younger Brethren Endeavour to know their places, as Living Members of one Body, and preserve a Due Regard to their Elders in Christ Jesus.

1719

1719 Advised, in a particular manner when Assembled for the Affairs of the Church, that the Wrath of Man, which worketh not the Righteousness of God, may be kept down, together with Exaltedness of spirit; and that on the Contrary, the meekness and Wisdom of the Lord may Govern all Friends, and they in that Carry on & perform the Affairs of the Church, Whereby the many and great evils which attend Wrath and Exaltedness will be suppressed & prevented.

wrath &c to be kept Down

And it is Desired that the Epistles and Accounts of the Affairs of Truth Sent to this Meeting from Yearly, Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings may if Possible be Read and approved in the respective Meetings from whence they are sent before they be Signed on behalf of the Meetings.

Epistles & Accounts to be Read and approved before Signed

And See Yearly Meeting, page, 415.

1722

1722 Advised, To a Cementing in a very Close & Brotherly Fellowship one with another in the Divine Spirit, and therein watch against all Occasion of Discord or breach of Unity, in any Quarterly, Monthly or Particular Meeting, to the Sion may Continue a quiet Habitation, the Glory and Presence of God rest and remain on Her, and the Spirit and Doctrine of the Gospel may be Lived in and Maintained.

And we also Recommend, that such Friends as are Concerned in the Affairs of the Church, in the Quarterly, Monthly or particular Meetings, be Careful to act therein in the Wisdom of God, whereby they will be Exemplary to the Young, who may be Esteemed Members thereof and Attend the Same; and as such young Persons are found to be Qualified with a real sense of Truth upon their Spirits, and Subjection thereunto, and thereby made Capable to Come up to a Service in their Respective Meetings Friends are Desired to Encourage and bring

them

1722 them forward therein, whereby they may be helpful to the Ancients, and brought up in a Life of Righteousness to walk and act to the Praise of Gods holy Name, and Standing in their Lot will supply the place of the Elders in such Meetings, through the same Spirit, when they are gone.

1724

1724 Advised That Friends in Meetings of Busines watch over their own Spirits, that no indecent warmth get in, whereby the Understanding may be hurried and hindred from a regular Judgment on the Affairs before the Meeting.

1726

1726 The former Advice in 1722, to avoid all Occasions of Discord, repeated. ——

We Earnestly Recommend to you whatever your places & Stations in the Church may be, that in the most weighty and serious manner, you often call to Remembrance, in all humility of Mind, what it was that brought us to be a People, and what is and will be That which will preserve Us such, That the foundation on which a true Christian is built is the Spirit of Christ; Let this therefore Direct you in all things, both respecting your private Conversation and whatever you do for God in his Church, this is the only true means to preserve you holy and Blameless in the one, as well as Serviceable & Useful in the other: in this every one will have a Single Regard to the Service that Comes before him in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings without partiality or respect of Persons: ——

" Hear the Causes Betweeen your Brethren, and Judge
" Righteously between every man and his Brother,
" and the Stranger that is with him. Ye shall not
" Respect Persons in Judgment; but You shall hear
" the small as well as the great. You shall not be
" afraid of the face of man, for the Judgment is Gods,
Deut: 1:16:17 —— And in the Management of such affairs they will find their own spirits rightly

Seasoned

1726 Seasoned and prepared for every work and service to which they may be called; and all Disorderly Proceedings arising from the heat of our own spirits will thereby be shut out; and thus the Church will be preserved on her Ancient So=-lid and Permanent Foundation, to the Glory of God and her own Quiet and Comfort.

1727.

1727 Ordered to acquaint the Quarterly Meetings, That 'tis the Mind of this Meeting, that all Minutes and Epistles from this Meeting be Entered and kept by them in a fair Book, that all Friends of their Counties or Meetings may have recourse to them as Occasion shall Require.

This Meeting Understanding it to have been the Ancient and Constant Sense of Friends in the Exercise of the Discipline that is Established amongst Us, That any Person Denied by a Monthly Meeting is adjudged as Disowned by Friends, and to stand and remain in that state till by his Repentance, or the Reversal of such Cen=-sure by a Superiour Meeting he is Reconciled to Friends, or reinstated in Membership among them: with which this Meeting hath Unity, and therefore Ratifies and Confirms the same.

See Morning Meeting of Ministers p. 195

1730

1730 And forasmuch as Divers failures in respect to * Insolvency have happened by Persons of other Stations in the Church, This Meeting Declares it as their Judg=-ment, that no such Persons shall appear in Publick as Ministers, or sit or act in any affair of our two weeks Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, till they have given such Meetings they belong to Satisfaction: ——— And that Friends in their Respective Meetings take Due Care to Deal with all such Persons in a regular way

* See Correspond. p. 77. Insolvents

1730 way, agreeable to the Discipline of the Church already Established among Friends, by publickly Manifesting their Disunity with such Person or Persons agreeable to the nature & Circumstance of the Case.

'Tis Recommended to all Quarterly & Monthly Meetings to watch Carefully over their Members, that so where any Root of Bitterness shall appear, that would bring forth Envy Strife Emulation & hatred, and thereby Our holy Unity in the Spirit be Broken, they do Use timely and Earnest Endeavours to prevent and remove the same, whereby We may be preserved a People to the Glory of God, and in that Perfect Love & Unity which will Demonstrate us to be the Disciples of Christ.

1731

1731 Advised, that Friends every where in an Especial manner, take care to keep up the good Order and Discipline of Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in that spirit of Love and Divine Wisdom in which they were at first Constituted, that therein every thing may be Managed to the Praise of God, and the preservation of his Church and People within the Bounds & Limits of his Blessed Truth. This We are Sensible has been a means, under Divine Direction, to keep many hurtful things out of the Church, and therefore We are Sincerely Concerned that nothing may weaken the hands of Friends in this good Work, but that it may be Carried on for the support of our Christian Testimony in all its Branches.

1732

1732 Advised that Young Friends who are sober & well Inclined, be Encouraged to attend the service of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, and that all Friends in such Meetings wait to feel the Power of Truth, that their mind being Seasoned with the virtue thereof, the Wholesom Discipline of the Church may be Maintained and Continued from One Generation to another, for the help of such as are weak.

and

1732 Dealing with Offenders

And for the Dealing with all Persons Offending, We Recommend, That Friends in their said Meetings be Careful to Labour in the Spirit of Love & Meekness, Regularly and Impartially for the help & Reclaiming of all such, and if after such Labour of Love there appears no ground to hope for Repentance, and the Case be of a Scandalous Reproachful Nature, that they Proceed to Testify against such Practices, and those who are Concerned therein. ——

none to be Disowned without Dealing

That no Monthly Meeting Disown or Testify against any of their Members, without first Dealing with such offenders, Where such Offenders can be Conveniently met with or Spoke to.

Papers to the Yearly Meeting, to be sign'd, See Yearly Meeting, page, 416. ——

1733.

1733. Tithes &c. Justice & Plainness. Monthly Meetings to appoint Friends to Visit Families

This Meeting being Under a Weighty Concern & Exercise to Observe that the many Wholesome Advices recommended from Year to Year, are in too many Places either Neglected or not Enough Practised, particularly those against Tithes, Church Rates so Called, and Priests maintenance; also keeping up to Justice in Dealing; Plainness of Habit and speech and Several Other branches of Our Christian Testimony: We therefore again Recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings to take special Care to appoint proper Prudent & Judicious Friends to Visit their Brethren in their Families, pursuant to former advice, viz.† in the Epistles 1708 & 1729# herewith sent you; And that such Friends Labour faithfully in a spirit of Love, and in the Meekness of Wisdom, to Convince the Judgments of their Respective Members of the Necessity of their Coming up with their Brethren in Practice agreeable to our Christian Principle that so the several

† See the Paragraph 1708, under the head Families. p. 117.

See 1729, under the heads Families. p. 117. & Trading, p.

Meetings for Discipline

1733 Several Branches of the Testimony of Truth hath given Our ancients and Us to bear may be maintained unviolated: And We do herewith also send the Minutes of this Meeting of 1675*, 1703† and 1706‡, so far as they are Relative thereto; and Desire you may record them in your Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Books, that you may have Recourse thereto on all Occasions: and We also advise that the same be read frequently in Our Meetings of Business that Friends may be fully Informed of them: ——

And Dear Friends, as the Promotion of Piety and Charity is the End and Intent of Our Meetings for the Discipline of the Church, a weighty Concern Remains upon Us, that Friends be Careful Diligently to attend those Meetings; and when there, to act in the Wisdom given them of God, with a real and Living Sense of Truth upon their Spirits, that so the Affairs of the Church may be Carried on in Brotherly Love, and in that sweet Calm & Christian Disposition of mind, which tends to the mutual Comfort & Edification One of another, and of the Church in General.

Diligently to attend meetings for Discipline

1734.

1734 Whereas the Number of Friends attending the Service of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the Discipline of the Church is but small in some Places, We Desire, that Elders would give all due Encouragement to such younger Friends as they Observe to be Religious & sober in their Conversation, to attend the Service of those Meetings that so being inured to the management of the Affairs of the Church in the Company of their Elders, they may be the better Qualified to succeed them therein, and to supply their places & Service when Removed.

younger Friends to be Encouraged

1735

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* See 1675, under the head Tithes, p. 365.
† 1703, under the same —— p. 369.
‡ 1706 under the same —— p. 370.

Meetings for Discipline

1735

1735 Propositions to the Yearly Meeting to be signed,
See Yearly Meeting, page. 418.
See also Discipline, page, 101 & 102.

1736.

1736 youth to be Encouraged &c — And Dearly Beloved Friends & Brethren, We Desire You to Encourage such Youth as are regular & Sober in their Conversation, to frequent Our Monthly & Quarterly Meetings that they may see the care which is taken for the maintenance of Our Poor, and the Preservation of Our Christian Discipline, and thereby become more Useful in their respective Meetings, and to the Church in General: And We tenderly intreat that you would both by word & Example excite them to a Diligent attendance of Our Meetings for Worship, not only on the first Days but also on the other Days of the Week.
— to attend Meetings for Worship

See appeals, page. 3.

1737

1737 And Dear Friends, that the Affairs of Our Society may Continue to be managed in the meek & peaceable Wisdom of Truth, Let the Elders of Each Monthly Meeting have an Eye upon the Younger, and Consider their Conversations Qualifications & Growth in the Truth, and invite such as are sober and hopeful to the Meetings for Business and the Affairs of the Church, that they may Learn and Improve in the knowledge of the Discipline of the Church, and become Instrumental to the Service of God, His Truth and People.

1738

1738 And as much as in You lies, take Care that the Business of Your Monthly Meetings be managed by Persons who are well Grounded in the Principles of Truth; and beware of Committing the Management thereof

1738 thereof to such as know not their own spirits sea-
soned by the work of Truth in themselves. But where
you Observe any young Persons of a Grave & Solid
Deportment, and Inclinable to be helpful in the
Church, Discourage them not, but Endeavour to
bring them forward in the Service of Truth, accord-
ing to their respective Abilities for so weighty a Work.

1740.

1740 See Records, page, 281.

1741.

1741 See Poor, page, 245.

1743.

1743 Agreed, That when a Quarterly Meeting
have come to a Judgment respecting any Differ-
ence relative to any Monthly Meeting belonging
to them, and Notified the same in Writing to such
Monthly Meeting, the said Monthly Meeting ought
to Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly Meeting
And if such Monthly Meeting shall not be satisfied
therewith, then the Monthly Meeting may Appeal
to the Yearly Meeting against the Judgment and
Determination of their Quarterly Meeting.

monthly meeting to submit to the Judgmt. of the Quarterly Meeting

And if a Monthly Meeting shall refuse to take
the advice and Submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly
Meeting; and Notwithstanding will not Appeal a-
gainst the Determination of the said Meeting to the
Yearly Meeting, in such Case it is Our Opinion the
Quarterly Meeting shall be at Liberty, either to
Dissolve such Monthly Meeting, or bring the Affair
before the Next or Succeeding Yearly Meeting.

In Case they do not &c

And in Case a Quarterly Meeting shall Dis-
solve a Monthly Meeting, The Dissolved
Monthly Meeting or any part thereof in the name

of

1743

if a Quarterly Meeting do Dissolve a Monthly Meeting

of the said Meeting, shall be at Liberty to Appeal to the next or Succeeding Yearly Meeting against such Dissolution: But if the Dissolved Monthly Meeting, or a part thereof in it's behalf, shall not Appeal to the Yearly Meeting, it is then Our Opinion, that the Quarterly Meeting shall Join the Members of the said late Monthly Meeting to such other Monthly Meetings as they may think most Convenient; and until such time, shall take care that no Inconveniency doth thereby Ensue to the Members of such Dissolved Meeting, respecting any Branch of our Discipline.

any Monthly Meeting aggrieved may Appeal

And if any of the Monthly Meetings to which the Quarterly Meeting shall Join the whole or a part of the late Monthly Meeting, do think themselves aggrieved, they shall be at Liberty to Appeal against the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting; And until such Appeal is heard and Determined, The Friends added by the Quarterly Meeting to them shall be Deemed their Members.

to deal in due time with Disorderly Walkers

And Dear Friends in the Love of Christ We Earnestly Beseech and Exhort you to watch Diligently over the Flock of God, and to Deal in due time, and in a spirit of Christian Love and Tenderness, with all such as walk Disorderly among You, in Order to reclaim & restore them by Brotherly Admonition & Counsel; And where after Patient waiting you find that Your Christian Labour of Love hath not its Desired Effect, You neglect Not to Testify against and Disown such Persons; and thereby prevent the Reproach & Dishonour which may be brought upon Our holy Profession through their Means; and that the End & Design of Friends in Settling Wholesom Discipline among us may be Answered; the want of this has, as We Apprehend brought great Difficulties on some Meetings; For We

think

Meetings for Discipline.

1743 think it both Unreasonable and dishonourable, when Persons Apply to Monthly Meetings on account of Marriage, Or for Relief in case of Necessity to Object to them then such Offences, as the Meeting through Neg=-lect of their Own Duty, Did Long before suffer to pass unreproved.

See Preachers, page, 258.

1744

1744 Womens Meetings On a Proposition for the Encouragement of Womens Meetings for Discipline, which this Meeting into Serious Consideration, think it our Duty to Re=-commend to the several Counties the following minutes of former Yearly Meetings Relating thereto; Desiring Friends in Each Monthly Meeting Carefully to See the same put in Practice; viz^t. 1675, 1691 and 1707. — (which See at Length in pages, 163, & 167.)

See Law, page, 138
See Marriage, page, 153·154
See tale-bearing, page—

1745

1745 to Encourage Womens Meetings And Dear Friends We find it Our Concern to Repeat the Exhortation We gave last year, That Friends in all places would Encourage the Service of the Meetings of Faithful Women; and that the Quarterly Meetings would help & Asist such Women Friends in Setting up Month=-ly Meetings wherein they may wait for Divine Wisdom to give proper advice to those of their own Sex.

marriages to be laid before them And that Proceedings in Relation to Marriage be laid before such Meetings of Women and the Clearness and Conversation of the Persons Concerned Enquired into by them: which Method We Appre=-hend, will render Our grave and Solid Women Helpmeets to the Brotherhood in the Discipline of the Church, and Conduce to the Edification & Comfort

of

Meetings For Discipline

1745 of the Body.

And Dear Friends, We Desire that your Several Monthly Meetings, where any School Masters or Mistreses of Our Profession may reside, would not be wanting to Admonish them, as much as in them lies, to bring up the Children of Friends Committed to their care, in plainness of speech, behaviour and Ap=-parel, agreeable to Our Profession; And that such of them as have boarders in their Families, would fre=-quently Call them together, and accustom them to a Solemn Reading of the holy Scriptures; and to press and Excite them to the Observation of the Christian pre=-cepts therein Contained; and that they themselves Walk before their Scholars as Examples of that Plainness and Simplicity which they Recommend.

School Masters or Mistreses

See Appeals, page, 4.

1747 1747. See Discipline, page, 103.
See Marriage, page, 154.

1748 1748, See the same, page, 155.

1751 1751, See Discipline, pa; 105.

182

Meetings for Worship.

№22 Concerning Meetings for Worship.

1675

1675 That as it hath been our care and Practice from the Beginning, that an open Testimony for the Lord should be born, and a Publick Standard for Truth and high=teowness upheld in the Power and Spirit of God, by our open and known Meetings, against the Spirit of Persecution that in all ages hath sought to lay wast Gods Heritage; and that only thro' Faithfulness Constancy & Patience victory hath been and is Obtained; so it is our advice and Judgment, That all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus keep up these Publick Testimonies in their respective places, and not Decline forsake or remove their Publick Assemblies because of times of Sufferings, as Worldly fearful & Politick Professors have done, because of Informers and the like Persecutors; for such Practices are not Consistent with the Nobility of Truth, and therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ.

Publick Meetings for Worship to be kept up as an open Testimony for the Lord

1678

1678 And by how much the more it is a day of Tryal and an hour of Temptation, Forsake Ye not the Assembling of Yourselves together, but by so much the more be Zealous & Diligent in keeping all Your Meetings; both Publick Meetings, and Your Mens, and Women's Meetings in the Lords Everlasting Power by which they were set up; and as you are found Diligent & Stedfast in the Work of the Lord, the God of Peace will suddenly tread down Satan under your feet, and plentifully reward into all your bosoms, your Patience & perseverence with the durable Blessings, Peace & joy of that Kingdom which was before the World began, and that never shall have End.

to be Zealous and Diligent in Assembling together in times of tryal

1689

1689 Let every one be watchful against an Earthly spirit getting up in any, for that Will Choak the good seed

Meetings for Worship

1689 Seed, and bring forth a Slighting or Neglecting your Testimony in your First Days and Week Days Meetings, and bring a Decay of your Strength and Zeal for God & his truth, and bring a Weakness upon you, by Reason Whereof such will not be able to Stand in an hour of Temptation.

1691

1691 keep up week day Meetings 'Tis tenderly Advised, for the Lord's sake, and his Blessed Name and Truth's sake, That Friends be Diligent in keeping their Week-day Meetings as duly as on first Days, in his Worship and Service.

1696

1696 Agreed, that Friends be reminded that Live Distant from Meetings, to keep Meetings in their Families to wait upon God, that their Children & families may come to be Seasoned in their Spirits by the Truth and the Lord's Power, and that they may have his Blessing upon their Families.

1697

1697 Advised, duly to keep up Week-day Meetings.

1706

1706 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 166.

1715

1715 Advised that all Friends be Careful to attend Meetings for Worship and Business, at the times & hours appointed, as near as they Possibly may; and not to Detain Meetings out of Season.

1716

1716 not to oppose one another Advised, to have a Godly Care of Judging or Contradicting One another in Publick Meetings or shewing any marks or signs of Division therein, among Ministers or Others: That being of a very — Pernicious Consequence, to bring blame or Contempt upon the Ministry; a great hurt to Our Youth & Others.

1718

Meetings for Worship

1718

1718 Advised, That all Friends be Exemplary in Seasona-
-ble & Constant keeping to Week-day Meetings, as well as First Days, and such as have Children & Families, in bringing them as much as may be with them, that they may be good Examples to the Flock therein, and not by their Indifferency & Negligence be a Stumbling block in the way of Others.

1723.

1723 Advised, That Friends keep their Children to a Constant Seasonable and Orderly frequenting as well of Week-days as of First-Day Meetings; Instructing them to have their minds Stayed in the Divine Gift, to wait upon the Lord therein, to receive a Portion with them of his Spiritual Favours; that they from the tendering Virtue of the holy Spirit may be Engaged in heart & Mind to walk Worthy of so great Grace, and in an holy Zeal to Honour God, Submit to bear the Cross, Endure the Shame, and become Publick Witnesses for him amongst the Sons of Men.

See Preachers, page, 253, 254.

1724

1724 Advised, That Friends, tho Meetings are sometimes held in Silence, would not Neglect their attendance at those Meetings; For the hungry Soul will Labour for bread, and the thirsty for the Water of Life, and the Diligent hand will make Rich in that Treasure that is of an Enduring Substance.

1725.

1725 In your Religious Meetings for the Worship of God, both on the First and Other Days of the Week be Diligent in Waiting on Him in His Spirit, whereby you may Renew your Strength, and

Witness

1725 Witness him your Sufficient help, for sure many of us have Cause thankfully to Remember his early visitations in the Assemblies of his People, where he broke in upon our hearts with his Power & Love, and did in the needful time Administer help Comfort and Counsel, whereby we have in the Renewings there: of been upheld in a Faithful Testimony, and in the Discharge of our Duty to him.

1729.

1729 We again Recommend the advice given in the year 1723.

1732

1732 Advised that all Friends who are Masters and Heads of Families, be very Careful in Attending and bringing their Children & Servants to Meetings, both on First Days and Other days of the Week.

1733

1733 And as the First Day of the Week is set apart for the Publick Worship of Almighty God, 'Tis our Earnest Advice, that Friends Exhort and Encourage their Chil: dren & Families to be Diligent in the Attending Meetings for Worship; and to behave themselves there with Seriousness and Gravity, as becomes the Professors of Christianity, and to be regardful of the good Counsel and Admonitions of those whose Mouths the Lord may be Pleased to open in the Work of the Ministry: And that Parents would be Exemplary to their Children in Closely Attending Meetings, not only on the First Days but as much as in them lies on other days of the Week also, in which respect We cannot but with Grief Observe, too many appear Remiss.

1734

1734 And Dear Friends, We Desire that you would Excite and stir up your Children to a Diligent attending the First Day and Week Day Meetings, and be Exemplary Your Selves therein, not in a meer formal & Customary attendance but in a Serious & Diligent waiting upon the Lord; for as formality in Worship Occasioned the Lord to Complain of his People in Days of Old, That they Drew near to him with their Mouths and with their Lips did Honour him, but had removed their hearts far from him Isa: 29: 13. So we have Reason to fear that the same formality has been One Cause of that great Declention from the Purity & Spirituality of Gospel Worship which is too Apparent among many of the Professors of Christianity.

Caution against formality

And inasmuch as it hath Pleased the Lord to Concern some amongst Us, as Instruments in his hand, to travel to & fro for the Preaching and Spreading of the Gospel; We advise that where Meetings for Worship are Settled, when any such are Concerned to Visit you; You would give notice thereof to your Sober & well Inclined Neighbours, that they may have an Opportunity to hear the Testimony of Truth Declared; A means which the Lord hath been often — Pleased to make Use of, for the gathering many out of the World unto himself, through the Power of the Word of Life Faithfully Preached.

1735

1735 As it hath Pleased the Lord in his great Mercy, & Goodness to favour the Faithful among his People, not only in such Publick Assemblies as these, but also in their small retired Meetings in the Country every where, with the Lifting up of the Light of his Countenance upon them, by which they are greatly Encouraged to meet often together to think upon his Name, and as he shall move any thereunto to speak one unto another to their Mutual Edification & Comfort We take this Opportunity to renew our former Advices, that Friends in their

Meetings for Worship

1735 be Diligent in attending Meetings for Worship

their Several Counties and Places, be Diligent in attending Religious Meetings for the Worship of God, not only on First Days but on other Days of the Week, and as near as may be at the time Appointed; there being by Accounts brought into this, from some Places, a great Neglect in this Respect, which We have Reason to believe is Owing to a being overcharged with the Cares of this Life, the Deceitfulness of Riches, and the Love of other things, which choaks the good Seed, so that Love to Religion and the Worship of God Decays and grows Cold.

1736

1736 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 175.

1738

1738 See Preachers, page, 257

1739

1739 The Advice in 1738, again Recommended; See the Printed Epistle ——.

N. 23. Concerning the Morning Meeting of Ministers

1675

1675 See Sufferings, page — 347

1697

1697 See Yearly Meeting, page, 413

1706

1706 See Books, —— page — 28

1707

1707 See Yearly Meeting. page, 414

1723

1723 no Meeting of Ministers to Disown any

It is the Unanimous Agreement of this Meeting, That it does not belong to the Morning Meeting, or any other Meeting of Ministers, to Disown any Minister or Other Person; but that the Sole Right of so doing be=longs to Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings. See further, page 197.

1727

1727 A Proposition from the Friends of Wiltshire, relating to the Extending a Care in Friends to young Ministers &c. being read; this Meeting Desires all Monthly Meetings to appoint Serious Discreet & Judicious Friends, who are not Ministers, tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and advise others, as they in the Wisdom of God see Occasion: and where there are Meetings of Ministring Friends, such Friends so Chosen be Admitted as Members of such Meetings of Ministers, and act therein for the good Purposes aforesaid.

1732

1732 See Books, page — 29.

See Discipline page - 108 & 397

1735

1735 Meetings of Ministers may advise rebuke &c

It is Our Unanimous Sense and Opinion, That the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministers, have a right as they see Meet, in the Wisdom of Truth, to Advise Exhort & Rebuke any of their Members, or any Ministers who may Travel in the Work of the Ministry, as Occasion may require without being accountable for the same to any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting.— But if any Member of the said Meetings or any other Minister, should at any time be overtaken with a fault, and the same be under the Cognizance of the Morning, or other Meeting of Ministers, and the Monthly Meeting to which such Person belongs shall also Deal with him or her for the same; that then on Notice from such Monthly Meeting that they have taken the Case under their Care & Serious Consideration, all Proceedings of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers against such Minister or Elder shall be finally Stopt.

no power to Disown any

And We are of Opinion, that the Morning Meeting, or other Meeting of Ministers, have no Power to Disown any Minister or Other Person in any Capacity Whatsoever; the Sole Right of so doing belonging to Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly or Yearly Meetings.

And it is our Sense & Opinion that such Discreet & Judicious Friends who are Deputed Elders by the respective Monthly Meetings of London, are to be allowed Members of the Morning Meeting tenderly to Encourage & help Young Ministers, and advise others as they shall see Meet, in the Wisdom of God, for the good purposes Specified in the Minute of the Yearly Meeting 1727.

Second Days Morning Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting. See Yearly Meeting, page 418.

Morning Meeting of Ministers

1723 Part of the Minute in 1723. omitted viz^t.
— And that no Persons Name from and after the Eighth Day of the Seventh Month next be entered in the Morning Meeting book of Ministring Friends, as a Minister till he or she produces a certificate from the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or She Shall Belong. See p. 195.

1781 The Select yearly meeting Proposing to this meeting that the said Select meeting may begin for the future on fourth day at the 10th hour in the week the Yearly meeting is to be held, accordingly it is approved off and directed to be held at that time

Mourning.

N° 24. Concerning Mourning.

1717

1717 According to the Primitive Innocency & Simpli=
=city of Friends, It is the Advice of this Meeting, That
no Friends Imitate the World in any Distinction of
Habit or Otherwise, as marks or Tokens of Mourning
for the Dead.

1718

1718 Advice against Men and Women imitating
the World in making a Shew of Mourning for the
Dead in their Apparel.

1724

1724 A Caution against imitating the vain Custom
of wearing or giving Mourning, and all Extrava=
=gant Expences about the Interment of the Dead.

1745

1745 And Whereas a Custom hath of Late prevailed
with some among Us, of wearing Mourning at
the Funerals of their Relations, Contrary to the
Ancient Practice, and Repeated Advice of Friends;
'Tis Desired that Friends every where would Dis=
=courage such a Custom: And such Publick Friends
whose Company may be Desired at Funerals, are
Requested to Signify to the Persons Concerned the
Uneasiness & Difficulty they are put under by
reason of such appearances, which by their Pre=
=sence they may be Supposed to Countenance.

Negroes

N.o 25.o Concerning Importing Negroes

1727

1727 It is the Sense of this Meeting, That the Import=
=ation of Negroes from their Native Country and Re=
=lations, by Friends, is not a Commendable nor allowable
Practice; and that Practice is Censured by this Meeting.

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode=
=Island it was Agreed, and Concluded that the following
Paragraph from the Yearly Meeting Epistle from London
A.D: 1758 should be here Inserted.

We fervently warn all in Profession with Us, that
they be careful to avoid being any way Concerned, in
reaping the Unrighteous profits arising from that Iniqui=
=tous Practice of Dealing in Negroes and other Slaves, where=
=by in the Original Purchase one man selleth another as he
doth the beast that Perishes, without any better pretention to
a property in him than that of Superiour Force; in Direct
violation of the Gospel Rule, which teacheth every one to do
as they would be done by, and to do good unto all; being the
reverse of that Covetous Disposition, which furnishes En=
=couragement to those poor Ignorant People to perpetuate
their Savage Wars, in Order to Supply the Demands of this
most Unnatural Traffick, whereby great Numbers of Man=
=kind free by Nature, are Subjected to inextricable Bondage;
And which hath often been Observed to fill their Possessors
with Haughtiness and Tyranny, Luxury and Barbarrity,
Corrupting the Minds, and Debasing the Morals of their Chil=
=dren, to the Unspeakable prejudice of Religion and Virtue
and the Exclusion of that holy Spirit of Universal Love
Meekness and Charity, which is the Unchangeable Nature
and the Glory of true Christanity, We therefore can do no
less, than with the greatest Earnestness Impress it upon
Friends every where, that they Endeavour to keep their
hands Clear of this Unrighteous Gain of Oppression.

Negroes

1769 It is Recommended that Friends who Have Slaves in Possession to treat them with Tenderness, Impress Gods fear on their minds Promote their attending Places of Religious Worship and give those that are Young so Much learning that they may be Capable of Reading

N° 26 Concerning Oaths

1693

1693 Advised That our Christian Testimony be faithfully maintained against the Burthen and Imposition of Oaths.

N° 27. Concerning Orphans

1706

1706 Recommended, That Friends who leave Children young, Especially those who have Estates for them, do in their Wills appoint Faithful Friends to be Guardians to them, till they come to the Age of Twenty one Years: And that Monthly Meetings take Care Such Guardians do Discharge their trust with Justice & Uprightness, as they will answer it at the great Day; and that Orphans be Admonished to be Subject to the Wills of their Deceased Parents, as the said Meetings shall see Cause.

No. 28. Concerning Applying to Parliament.

1695

1695 Recommended to the Several Quarterly Meetings to take Care that timely Application be made in their respective Counties, by Sober Discreet Friends, to Members of Parliament before their coming up to sit, giving them right Information, and intreating them, that in their places, they would be pleased to Use their Endeavours and Interest for the Ease of Our Suffering Friends when presented to them in Parliament. This Method having been found of Service in some places, 'tis desired it may be Observed.

Persecution

N.o 29. Concerning Persecution.

1675

1675 It is Our Advice and Judgment, That all Friends Gathered in the Name of Jesus, keep up those Publick Testimonies of Meeting together in their respective places, and not Decline forsake or remove their Publick Assemblies because of Sufferings as Worldly fearful & Politick Professors have done because of Informers, and the like Persecutors; For such like Practices are not Consistent with the Nobility of The Truth, and therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ. See Meetings for Worship, p. 185.

not to decline publick assemblies for fear of Persecution

1678

1678 See Meetings for Worship, page 185.

1703

1703 See Sufferings, page — 351.

1707

1707 Advised, That all walk with much Circumspection fear and Humility before the Lord, under the Sense of Our present Outward Liberty, and the temporal mercys that have for some years attended the Same; That Our Love & Service for the Lord, and his holy Truth & Church may have the preference of Our Worldly Business in Our thoughts, lest we should incurr the Lords Displeasure, For an Ungrateful Neglect of our Duty and thankfulness to Him: For it has been sometimes the Lords method to deprive his people of the favours they abuse, though He is a God Slow to anger, and of Long-suffering towards his Children.

to Live in a grateful Sense of the present Liberty

N. 30. Concerning Plainneſs in Habit & Speech &c.

1675

1675 See Converſation, page, 59.

1688

1688 See Converſation, page, 59.

1691

1691 in Language habit and Behaviour

Adviſed that Friends take Care to keep to Truth & plainneſs in Language Habit Deportment and Behaviour, that the Simplicity of Truth in theſe things may not wear out nor be loſt in Our Days nor in Our Poſterityes: To avoid Pride & Immodeſty in Apparel, and Extravagant Wiggs, and all other vain and Superfluous Faſhions of the World.

1697

1697 Dealing

It is the Advice of this Meeting that Friends every where keep to plainneſs both in Speech Habit and Dealing, and not to Launch too far into the things of this World, by overcharging themſelves with Trading and Debts beyond their Abilities to Diſcharge, but keep out of the Spirit of this World in all things, that none may be Enſnared and defiled thereby.

1700 & 1701

1700 & 1701 Education of Children

Adviſed that a Godly care be taken for the due Education of Friends Children in the Nurture & Admonition of the Lord, and in plain and Modeſt Apparel, and in Truth's Language: And that all Parents be good Examples to them Accordingly.

1703

1703 This Meeting being Under a deep Senſe that Pride, the vain Cuſtoms, and Faſhions of the World prevail over ſome of Our Profeſſion particularly in

Exceſs

1703 Apparel & Furniture

Excess of Apparel and Furniture Doth Earnestly Recommend, that all who Make Profession of the Truth take care to be Exemplary in what they wear and what they Use, so as to avoid the vain Customs of the World, and all Extravagancy in Colour and Fashion and keep themselves in respect thereof Spotless & Blameless adorning their Profession in all Modesty and Sobriety.

1708

1708 Parents to be Exemplary

Advised that Parents be Examlary to their Children, in keeping out of the vain Fashions Customs and Pride of the World, by adorning themselves Modestly and in plainness according to the Simplicity of Truth received by us in the beginning.

1709

1709 to restrain Children

Let all be Examples to their Children in Wisdom Moderation, plainness in Language & habit; and not Examples only but also to restrain them from any thing that might be to their hurt either inwardly or Outwardly; neither providing for them Costly and Gaudy Attire unbecoming Godliness, nor letting them have money to gratify themselves therein.

Let the aged Remember and the Youth know that when apparent Signs of the Plague of Leprosie appeared on the walls in the Houses of Israel, twas the care of the Priests Under the Law to have the Houses Cleansed and the Lepers also: and Surely Christ's Priesthood should not fall short of their care to Endeavour to stop and Remove the Manifest Tokens of the Leprosie of the great sin of Pride, and all Superfluity of Naughtiness; and therefore let all Concerned be Earnestly Stirred up to Sincere Obedience to the Light of Christ Our great high Priest, that he may Cleanse the hearts and houses of that growing plague which tends to the ruin of Families & Posterities.

1712

1712. Advised that none despise the day of small things nor turn aside from the plainness, Simplicity and Life of the Truth, into the Words, Ways, Customs and Fashions of the World which are vain, and will perish with the Using; God having Redeemed his People out of the same, through his righteous Judgments in their inward parts; knowing that Whatsoever hath been Condemned and overturned there=by, is never to be Built up again by any that are Lovers of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

1715

1715 Advised, that all Friends both Male & Female, be careful that their adorning be that of a Meek & quiet spirit which in the sight of God is of great price, even as the holy Men and Women of Old Professing Godliness with good Works were adorned: Oh that our Young Men & Women would follow their Examples! — But to our great grief We find too many of Our Young Men instead of Observing that Gos=pel Exhortation, to be sober Minded, have given way to Lightness & Vanity, and the pernicious Effects thereof have led them into Pride, so that some have Cut off good heads of hair, and put on long Extravagant & gay Wigs, which they that are not of Profession with us, See as a mark of Declention from our Primitive Plainness.

to follow the Examples of holy Ancients

Extravagant Wigs

And likewise that Our Young Women would Cease from that Unseemly and Immodest appearance of their high heads, and wearing their Gowns set up like the Proud Fashion-mongers of the World.

Certainly both Males & Females who take such undue measures, Flee the Cross of Christ, and if they do not Repent and Return, they will thereby Suffer great Loss: But in the Bowels of Christian Compassion We warn and Exhort all such to Come into that Subjection that the Yoke of Christ may be their Delight, and their Souls may reap the Comfortable fruits of bearing the same

danger of flying the Cross

And

1715

Caution against false Liberty

And Caution given against false Liberty and Sinful Ease in the Flesh which is too apt to grow among some Professing the same Truth with Us, in this Our Day, for want of due watchfulness, and Obedience to the Light of Christ, and keeping low and Humble before the Lord, by reason whereof many Evils get in amongst us; viz.t Pride of Apparel making mixt Marriages with Persons of Contrary Judgment; bowing and giving Flattering Titles to Men; the saying ye or you to a Single Person; and calling the days of the week and the Months by heathen Names, to the Declining of Truth's Testimony, and giving Occasion of Stumbling to such as are seeking after the knowledge of the same as it is in Jesus.

Pride mixt Marriages bowing Flattering Titles &c

1718

1718

Testimony against undue Liberty

A Testimony against an Undue Liberty which too many under the Profession of Truth run into to the great Grief of Faithful Friends, by reason whereof the way of Truth is evil Spoken of, and Our holy Profession greatly Reproached, by many men amongst Us putting on Extravagant Wigs and wearing their hats & Clothes after the vain fashions, unbecoming the Gravity of Religious People; and too many Women Decking themselves with gaudy & Costly Apparel, Gold Chains, Lockets, Necklaces, and gold watches Exposed to open view, which shews more of Pride & Ostentation than for Use & Service; besides their vain Imitation of that Immodest Fashion of going with naked Necks and Breasts, and wearing hooped Petticoats, Inconsistent with that Modesty which should adorn their Sex, and Did adorn the holy Women of Old.

vain Fashions

Gold Chains Necklaces Gold watches

naked Necks & Breasts hooped petticoats

And in like vanity of mind Divers amongst Us run into great Extravagancies in the Furniture of their Houses; together with a great Declention in Some of both Sexes from that Plainness and Simplicity of Speech so Constantly used in holy Scripture

Furniture

Speech

and

1718 and Recommended and Practiced by Our ancient Friends as well as by the Faithful in this day.

Now this Meeting having been Under a Deep Sense of the Love of Christ, Doth Earnestly Recommend the laying aside of those things beforementioned, and whatsoever else is a hurt to themselves, and brings a Reproach Upon Us, For Certainly it does not become the Gravity of Our Profession, or any Under it to run into every new vain fantastick Mode or Fashion, but to keep to that which is Modest, decent plain & Useful, and therefore Friends Every where are Desired to Stand witnesses against these and all Other things that tend to Lay Waste our ancent Testimony.

not to adorn Children with gaudy apparel

And that Parents in the tender years of their Children, would not adorn them with gaudy Apparel which Practice Cannot Come from the Spirit that Leads out of the vain Customs of the World, but must proceed from Pride in the Parents: and Children being Led into such Vanities and Fineries Come Gradually to be in Love with them, which is apt to Encrease with their Years to that Degree, until it may be found very Difficult to Reclaim them.

1732

1732 And it is Evident that the Simplicity and Distinguishing Plainness of Our holy Profession is too much lost amongst Us, respecting Language, Apparel and Behaviour; We therefore Earnestly Exhort all to keep under the Power of the Cross of Christ, which will Crucify to the World and the Vanities of it, and bring up in a true Life of Self Denial agreeable to the Gospel and Example of Our Elders.

keep under the Power of the Cross

1735

1735 And Forasmuch as a true Christian Practice & every Branch of it, is the Fruit & Effect of the inward Sanctification of the heart, by the Spirit of Christ, for which

1735 which we are frequently to wait on him in all humility and lowliness of mind; We tenderly advise that every tending to Obstruct or divert the Minds Either of Children or those of more advanced Years from this good Exercise, may be carefully avoided and taken out of the Way; and it being evident that the Glory and Vanity of the World, and the Pleasures and Diversions of it, are of this nature & tendency. We therefore Advise that all Parents & Masters in the first place be good Examples to their Children & Families, in an humble and Circumspect Walking, and with all plainness of habit & Speech, which is agreeable to the Cross of Christ the Examples of Our ancient Friends, and the frequent Advices of this Meeting: And also that they be very Careful not to Indulge their Children in the Use and Practice of things Contrary thereunto; For We are Sensible that by such habits, of how little moment soever some may think them, the tender Minds of Children while very Young being Lifted Up and Drawn aside from the Simplicity of Truth a Foundation is early laid for those Undue Liberties so Justly Complained of; For a Love & Delight in those things imprudently Indulged at first, grows up with them and becomes Strengthned more & more into Confirmed habits, and thus some have become Enemies to the Cross of Christ and forsaken and Opposed the way of Truth, which Possibly might have been prevented by Parents doing their Duty in being good Examples, and not Cherishing Seeds of Vanity and folly in their Children; but on the Contrary Prudently Discouraging every appearance of evil in them; which Necessary Duty We Earnestly Recommend to their Serious Consideration and Practice.

1736

1736 See Conversation, page, 62.

1737

1737 See Families, page, – 118.

1739 1739

'Tis also Our Concern to Exhort all Friends, both Men and Women, to watch against the growing Sin of Pride, and to beware of Adorning themselves in a manner Disagreeable to the Plainness and Simplicity of the Truth we make Profession of, Oh! that they would Duly Consider that severe Reproof which the Lord by the Mouth of his Prophet pronounced against the haughty Daughters of Sion, Isaiah, 3. where He Describes even the particularities of their Dressings & Ornaments so Displeasing to the Lord, and Drawing down his Judgments upon them. if those things in that time were so Offencive in the Eyes of the Lord, how much more are they so now in a People Professing the Plainness & Simplicity which the Gospel of Christ Recommends! —— I Will saith the Apostle Paul, that Women Adorn themselves in Modest apparel with Shamefacedness & Sobriety, not with Broidered hair or Pearls or Gold or Costly array, but which becometh Women Professing Godliness with Good Works, 1 Tim: 2, 9, 10. —— Where he plainly Sheweth that such Adornings are Contrary to the Profession of Godliness. — The Apostle Peter also is very full in his Exhortations on this Subject, Whose Adorning Saith he, Let it not be that outward Adorning of plaiting the hair and of wearing of Gold, and of putting on of Apparel, but Let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not Corruptible, even the Ornament of a meek and Quiet Spirit which is in the Sight of God of great price; for after this manner in the Old time the holy Women also who Trusted in God Adorned themselves, 1 Pet: 3. 3, 4, 5. plainly intimating that those who of Old were holy & Trusted in God, placed not their Delight in such Ornaments. — Oh! that ye would weigh and Consider these things; Let your Moderation be known unto all men, and Grieve not the holy Spirit of God but be Ye followers of him as Dear Children, walking Circumspectly not as fools but as wise redeeming the time because the days are evil.

1743

1743

1743 And Whereas we have with Deep Concern Observed by Accounts from Divers places, that there is a great Declension from that Simplicity in Speech Behaviour and Apparel which Our Worthy Ancestors were led into; and as we find by Experience, that the same Spirit of Truth which led Our Ancients to lay aside every thing unbecoming the followers of Christ will still lead in the same Path all who submit to it's Guidance, We Earnestly Entreat Friends every where to watch over themselves in these respects and that Parents and Masters of Families would Labour to Convince those under their Care how inconsistent the gratifying a vain & Worldly Mind is with a Christian Life, and the plain=-ness and purity of the Gospel: the Example of Our Blessed Saviour and his followers, and of virtuous & holy Men in all ages, Ought to make a due Impression on every Considerate mind, and Especially on such as have had the Advantage of an Education in Plainness agreeable to such Example.

Let not any such as Degenerate in these Respects, Excuse their own weakness under a pretence of the Misconduct of some who have appeared Outwardly plain: an Objection of very little weight, for did they rightly Con=-sider they would Clearly See, that the very reason why Deceivers sometimes put on plain Apparel is, because true Men have been Accustomed to wear it.

We also tenderly advise that Friends Especially those who should be Exemplary to others under their care, take heed that they Exercise plainness of speech without respect to Persons in all their Converse among Men; and not balk their Testimony by a Cowardly Compli=-ance, varying their Language According to their Company: A Practice of very Ill Example to Our Observing Youth; And hendering those

who

1743 who Use it Contemptible and Looked upon as a kind of Hypocrites even by those with whom they so Comply. Such a mean Spirited Practice seems to be Cautioned against by the Apostle where he Advises, 1 Timo: 3, 8. — That the Deacons be grave, not Double Tongued; — a Caution Plainly Importing that Double Tongued=ness is Inconsistent with the Gravity of the Gospel.

Poor—

N°31 Concerning the Poor

1693

1693 Advised, that if any Poor Friends for the future Should Incline to remove themselves and Families to this City, that before they unsettle themselves, they apply to the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings to which they belong for Advice & Counsel, and that such Meetings do rather Advertise them to be Contented in their Places and Stations where Provisions and accommodations may be much easier & Cheaper Obtained than at London; Or if permitted by Certificate to remove, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings from whence they come, do take Care to Supply their Necessities, that the Friends of London may not be overcharged for the future

1694

1694 Advised that Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely Partake of Education in order to Apprenticeship.

1696

1696 Advised that such among Friends as are Endued with Plenty of outward Substance be timely and tenderly Advised to do good therewith in their day & Generation, Especially with Regard to the Poor; That the Tokens of their Charity may Commend their Memorial, and be good Precedents to Generations to Come. — That the Rich Remember the Poor, and do good in their Life time; and if they make any Settlement for the Use of the Poor, to take Advise and Councel that it may be done so that Friends may not be Deprived of their Charity, and may be firm and according to Law.

1698

1698 As to the Endeavouring to procure an Act or Acts for Employing and Relief of the Poor Amongst Us, and Building a Work house or Work houses; It's Referred

to

1698 to the Meeting for Sufferings to Proceed as the Respective Counties, shall give Directions to them and shall send up Friends to Assist in Soliciting for the said Act or acts from Each County if they See Meet.

1701

1701 'Tis Desired that no Poor Friends Children may want any Necessary Learning.

1709

1709 Advised and Desired, that where Friends want Ability in the World, their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings Assist them, that the Children of the Poor may have due help of Education, Instruction & Necessary Learning, and that Children both of the Rich & Poor may be Early provided with Industrious Employments, that they may not grow up in Idleness, Loosness & vice, but that being thus Seasoned with the Truth, Sanctified of God, taught our holy Self Denying Way, They may appear a Reputation to our holy Profession, the Comfort of their Honest Parents, Instrumental to the Glory of God, and the good of the Generation coming on.

1710

1710 Agreed, That if any Poor Friend or Friends, for the time to come, Should Incline to Remove themselves and Families from the Limits & Compass of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to Another, that before they Unsettle themselves They apply themselves to such Meetings to which they belong for Advice and Counsel therein, of which if the said Meeting to which they apply do approve, that they then give a Certificate Signifying Such Meetings Consent to their Removal, 2.nd When any Friend or Friends having such Certificate as above, shall bring their Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be Directed, and the Meeting accept and Receive their Collection for the Poor, or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the

to have Certificates

2.nd what is to be Deemd a Settlement

Compass

1710 Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, Such Re=
=ceiving their Collection or Imployment may well be
deemed a Settlement within the Compass of Such Meeting;
And altho Such Friend or Friends may not be of Ability
to Contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Services
of the Monthly Meeting, yet Such Friend or Friends be=
=having him or themselves according to Truth, and not any
ways Chargeable to the said Meeting, for the Space of three
years after the Delivery of his or their Certificate, they may
also then be well Deem'd to belong to the Meeting within
the Compass of which they shall so three years Inhabit.

3d Servants 3: Servant Men and Maids bringing a Certificate as a=
=foresaid, being hired for One Year, and Serving the Same
faithfully & honestly, that then after such years Service,
They also may be well Deemed to belong to the Meeting with=
=in the Compass whereof they Served, if they Delivered in to the
Meeting within that time the Certificate they had.

4th Removing without a Certificate 4th If any Professing Truth, Contrary to former Advice
Remove without a Certificate, and fall into want, and
apply to any Friend for Assistance, that then the Friend
to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the
Distressed shall say he or they Did belong, to acquaint that
Meeting of Such a Necessitous Person, and know how such
Person or Persons did Stand in the Unity of Friends; And
if Such Necessitous Person have not been Denied before they
became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence
they Came and to which they Did belong, shall reimburse
the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account.

This agreement to Continue but four Years,
unless it be then Renewed.

1711

1711 An Explanation of the fourth Article in the Last
years agreement Relating to the Settlement of the
Poor, as follows, Viz:—

Poor

1711

an Explanation to the 4th Article in 1710

If any Poor Friend or Friends shall Unadvisedly Remove from their habitations without a Certificate, and fall into Want, and apply to any Friend where they come for Assistance, that then the Friend to whom they apply, may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such a Necessitous Person, and know how such Person or Persons did Stand in the Unity of Friends when they Removed, and if such Necessitous Persons have not been Denied, or were Owned, before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they Came, and to which they did belong, do Reimburse half the Charges which have been Expended upon the account of the Necessitous, for any time not Exceeding three Months: In which time the Meeting from whence they Came shall desire the Necessitous Person to Return, Which they are desired to do with all Reasonable Expedition, so soon as Health and ability of Body shall Admit, and the Friends where they are, are Desired to Advise & Assist them in such Return; after which neither Meeting is Obliged to Continue their care and Charge in case they Refuse.

But if they be such as are not Friends, or are Disorderly Persons pretending to Profess Truth, then neither Friends from whence they Came, nor Friends to whom they do come, are to be under any Obligation to maintain such Necessitous Persons: Yet not to Restrain the Charity of any Particular Friend or Friends from affording Present Relief to any Necessitous Person

1714

1714 The agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1710 for the Settlement of the Poor, with the Amendment of the Fourth Article the next Year, is now agreed to be Continued.

1718

1718

1718 The Advice of 1709 Repeated: and with respect to the poor Among Us, it ought to be Considered, That the Poor both Parents and Children, are of Our Family, and Ought not to be turned off to any others to be either Supported or Educated; and altho some may think the Poor a Burthen, yet Remember, where Our Poor are well Provided for, and Walk Orderly, they are an Ornament to Our Society: And the Rich should Consider, It is more Blessed to give than to receive, and he Who Gives to the Poor, Lends to the Lord who will repay again.

the Poor are Our Family and not to be turned off,

1720

1720 As Mercy Compassion & Charity are Eminently requi=red in this New Covenant Dispensation we are Under, So care of the Poor and Indigent among Us, to see there be no Beggar in Our Israel, is the Concurrent Advice of this Meeting; That all Poor Friends among Us may be taken due care of, and none of them Sent to the Parish to be Re=lieved; That nothing be wanting for their Necessary Supply; which has been according to our Ancient Practice and Testimony; and it has Long been of good Report, That We have not only Maintained our own Poor, but also Con=tributed Our Share to the Poor of the Respective Parishes wherein we Dwell.

no beggar to be among Us

none to be sent to the Parish

See Questions, page, 290.

1721

1721. A Question being Proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1710,

This Meeting Concludes, that all that were not denied Are to be Esteemed Members of the Several Monthly Mee=tings in Whose Compass they then Resided; And it is the Sense of this Meeting, that it was not Intended by the Minute of 1710, to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time.

1724

1724 An Explanation of the Settlement of the Poor,- Agreed to at the Yearly Meeting in 1724. But not to break or Interfere with any particular agreement of the Monthly Meetings of London among themselves, is as follows viz.t,

to have Certificates That if any Friend or Friends for the future should Incline to Remove him her or themselves and Families from the Limits & Compass of One Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another, that before they Remove, they Request a Certificate for such their Removal.

what may be Deemed Settlement When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good Behaviour, as above, shall bring such Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be di=-rected, and the Meeting accept or Receive their Collection or put the said Friend or Friends in to any Service of the Church, in the Compass of the Meeting they Remove into, Such Receiving their Collection or Employment, Shall or may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: And altho Such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to Contribute to the Collec=-tion for the Poor, or the Services of the Monthly Meeting Yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or them=-selves according to Truth, and no way Chargeable to the said Meeting, for the Space of three Years, may then also be well Deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Com=-pass of which they Shall so three Years Inhabit.

Servants Servant Men and Women, bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired one year, and Serving the Same Faithfully, after such years Service, Shall and may be well Deemed to belong to Such Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof they so Served.

Notwithstanding the Several Minutes of Settlement in Relation to the Poor, there hath risen Some Disputes among Friends Concerning the same, We think it Necessary to Add, That if any Friend or

Friends

1724 Friends do for the future remove from One Monthly Meeting to another, to Settle there, that then the Monthly Meeting to which such are Removed, Shall as soon as posible Enquire of the Friend or Friends so removed for a Certificate, and for want thereof that then the Monthly Meeting where such Friend or Friends are so residing shall write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, to Request a Certificate in behalf of such Friend or Friends: But if the Monthly Meeting where such are then Residing do neglect to write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came for such a Certificate, for the Space of three Years after such Residence among them, that then it shall be deemed a Settlement to such Friend or Friends in such Monthly Meeting they have for three years so Resided, Unless such Person or Persons were Insolvent or Denied before their Removal. ——

We think the Minute in the Year 1711, may —— stand with the following Alterations viz^{t}, that the word, Poor, in the first Line be left out; and that the whole instead of the half Charges be reimburst according to the Directions of the said Minute.

1729

1729 Rules and Directions Relating to Removals and Settlements among Friends agreed upon by the Yearly Meeting held in London, in the Third Month 1729. ——

First, If any Friend or Friends for the time to Come should incline to Remove him her or themselves and Families, from the Limits & Compass of One Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to Another, before they Unsettle themselves, they apply to such Meeting to which they belong for advice and Counsel therein; Of which if the said Meeting to which they Apply Do Approve, they give a Certificate Signifying Such Meetings Consent to their Removal

to have a Certificate

Secondly

Poor

1729 2d Secondly. When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good Behaviour, and shall bring such Certificate to any Monthly Meeting to which it may be Directed, and the Meeting accept and receive their Collection, Or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they Remove into; Such Receiving their Collection or Employment, shall or may be Deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: and altho such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to Contribute to the Collection for the Poor or the Service of the Monthly Meeting; Yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves Orderly in Conversa=tion, and no ways Chargeable to the said Meeting, for the Space of three Years after the Delivery of their Certificate, or advice thereof from the Meeting from whence he she or they Came, may then also be Deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years Inhabit.

what may be Deemed a Settlement

3d Thirdly. Servant Men and Women bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired One Year and Ho=nestly Serving the same in One Family, after such Years Service, Shall and may be Deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass whereof their Master or Mistress shall be proper Members.

Servants

4th Fourthly. That the Two Weeks Monthly or Quarterly Meeting giving a Certificate to any Person or Persons, shall Speedily write to the Meeting, to which the said Certificate is Directed, giving notice thereof; and if they Omit writing, and the Person do not Deliver his or her Certificate then the Person Removing shall still belong to the Meeting from whence he or She Came; But if either the Meeting give Notice, or the Person Deliver his or her Certificate, then the Person Inhabiting three Years as before, shall be Deemed a Member of the Meeting into which he or She is Come.

5thly

1729 5th Fifthly, If any Professing Truth shall Contrary to former advice, remove without a Certificate, and fall into Want, and apply to any Friend for Assistance, that then the Friend to Whom they Apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he she or they did belong and acquaint that Meeting of such a Necessitous Person or Persons, to know how such Person or Persons did stand in the Unity of Friends, and if such necessitous Person or Persons have not been Denied, but owned before they became thus Chargeable, that then the Meeting from whence they came and to which they did belong shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account: and if the Meeting from whence such Necessitous Person or Persons did come shall desire them to return, which they are then Desired to do with all Expedition, so soon as Health and ability of Body will Admit, and the Friends where they are, are Desired to advise and assist them in such Return; But if such Person shall refuse to return according to such advice, after the Space of three Months, neither Meeting is Obliged to Continue their Care and Charge:— Yet this is not Intended to restrain the Charity of any Particular Friend or Friends from affording Present Relief to any Necessitous Person.

6th Sixthly, But if any Friend or Friends remove without a Certificate, 'tis Desired, that the Monthly Meeting from whence they came, should make Enquiry, and get Information whereto they are Removed, and write to such Quarterly Monthly, or Two Weeks Meeting, giving account of their Behaviour and Circumstances, and if such Friend or Friends shall Continue for the Space of three Years after such Account received, within the Compass of the Monthly Meeting whereto he, she or they are Removed, Behaving during that time Orderly, and no way Chargeable, nor become Insolvent, may then also be deemed to belong to the

Meeting

1729 Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three years Inhabit; Provided they were neither Disowned nor Insolvent before they Removed.

7th. Seventhly. That nothing herein Contained shall Interfere with any Particular agreement among the Monthly Meetings in London respecting their Poor. ——

8th Eighthly, that Every Quarterly or Monthly Mee=ting Communicate this Agreement to the Particular Meetings, in Order to it's being Publickly Read at the Close of Meetings for Worship, within three Months, or as often as they may see a Service in it, that none may Plead Ignorance.

to be Liberal to the poor in times of Scarcity & Sickness

We find Ourselves at this time Engaged to Request, That Friends in any part of this Kingdom, or other Places, where Provisions and the Necessaries of Life are dear & Scarce, Or Sickness doth Remark=ably Afflict, would in proportion to such Scarcity or Affliction Exert their Charitable Assistance to the Poor; which is our Christian Duty, as Stewards of the many Mercies wherewith the Lord has Entrus=ted Us.

1733

1733 Whereas Different Sentiments have been in the Minds of Divers Friends with respect to the Mi=nute of 1721, Relating to Settlements; A Question was put, What is meant by the word, Residence? —— It was thereupon Resolved in this Meeting, That the same shall be taken in the most Extensive Sense of the Word, as with respect to all Cases or Persons Inhabiting in any Place before the Year 1710, not being then Disowned by Friends.

1735

1736 See Questions, page, 290.

1737

1737 See Removals & Settlements, pa: 287 to 291.

Poor—

1741

1741 all Monthly Meetings to Support their own Poor—

It is the Sense of this Meeting, That all Monthly Meetings Ought to take care of, and Sufficiently Support all Poor Friends within the Limits of Each Monthly Meeting, according to Our Present Rule†: and if such Monthly Meeting by so doing is Overcharged,— that then the Quarterly Meeting shall, on application made, give them such Relief as may be Necessary.

† See removals & Settlements p.

Preachers

No 32 Concerning Preachers

1689

1689 A Concern Coming upon Friends of this Meeting Concerning Several Persons both Men and Women who go rambling Idly up and down the Countrys under pretence of Preaching Truth, who are out of the Unity of Friends in their own Country, whose Conversations and Examples are not Savory as becomes the Truth: Friends in the Several Counties should beware of such, and give no Encouragement nor Countenance to them, but warn them to return and Settle in their Places and honest Employments, and seek Unity with their own Meetings.

Caution against such as go up & down Preaching who are out of Unity—

1695

1695 This Meeting Desires and hopes, that you whom the Lord hath Gifted with a Publick Testimony for His Name and Truth, will in this Day of Liberty be Diligent to Visit the Heritage of God in their Meetings, and most Especially those least frequented. ——

1698

1698 Where Friends in any County are really dissatisfied or Burthened with any that take upon them to Preach among them, Let them first be duly admonished in their own County, with the Assistance of the Faithful approved Ministers & Elders of the Same Meeting and County, or adjacent County or Counties if need be; And if afterwards they will persist to Impose upon and Burthen Friends, then to be Publickly Testified against where they so Impose.

Preachers who are Burthensome to be admonished & persisting therein to be testified against

If any such after due admonition will Travel abroad to Minister, out of Unity with Friends of their own County, the Friends of those other Counties where they Travel should have due notice of them from Friends who have had them under Admonition.

1699

1699

1699 This Meeting Recommends to the Several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the Several Counties, that they take Care to Advise, That those Friends that go forth with a Publick Testimony may be such that are well approved at home by their own respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, and are Sound in Doctrine, and of Good Conversation, and in Unity with their own Meetings.

who Travel to be in Unity with their own Meetings &c

And if any Faithful Friends, or Meetings, be Burthened with the Contrary, Let them tenderly Clear their Consciences privately to the Parties Concerned, giving them Gospel Order; and if they dont answer it, nor receive due Admonition, that the Meeting to which they belong may be acquainted therewith: And the Second days Morning Meeting is Desired to Send this, on this Meetings behalf, to the Several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, with the Copy of the Minute made relating to this Matter last Year.

to Deal privately before they acquaint the Meetg.

1702

1702 Agreed, that Friends in the Several Counties Should be Cautioned not to Receive any as Preachers among them, that are Denied by Friends or Testified against by the Monthly Meeting to which they Did belong.

1713

1713 There being Several Omissions Concerning Publick Friends Deceased, in the Accounts brought up, It is Desired, that care be taken to Send up to this Meeting, the time of their Decease, and of their Conversations, Labours & Services in the Work of Truth.

1716

1716 See Meetings for Worship, page, 186.

1720

1720 Friends in the respective Counties and Meetings are Earnestly Desired and Advised, That they Use pru=dence and Caution, so as not to be Imposed upon by Im=postors or Cheats, pretending to the Ministry or otherwise, and where there is Doubt or Question of the Ministry of any Persons in that Case, that such be called upon to shew what Certificate they have: And in General it is tenderly Recommended to the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to see that Friends who Travel as in the Work of the Minis=try do go in the Unity of the Meetings to which they belong. and with Certificates therefrom.

to be Cautious not to be Imposed upon

& Ministers who Travel to have Certificates

And farther, that it may become the tender Care of the said Several Meetings to watch over such as may be Young in the Ministry, to see that they walk humbly and Wisely, that as on the One hand nothing truly tend=ing to the Glory of God, and the Edification of his Church and People may be Discouraged, So on the Other hand, where any thing appears which may make Advice Necessary. That the Elders of the Church both Ministers and others, do in the Wisdom of God give their Advice thereupon, with due regard to the State of weekness and Childhood that such may be Under.

Meetings to watch over Young Minis=ters & advise them

1723

1723 This Meeting taking under their Serious Consi=deration, the beauty and Credit of keeping Decency and good Order in Our Meetings for Worship, Advise Friends every where to avoid Publick Opposition to a Minister not Disowned by the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which He or She Shall belong, by keeping on hats or making any other appearances or Distinctions of Disunion: But that if any Person pretending to be a Minister Shall give

to avoid Publick Opposition to a Minister not Disowned.

See Meetings for worship 1716, page 186

Cause

1723 Cause of Uneasiness or Dissatisfaction to Friends in Doctrine Behaviour or Conversation, the Person so Offending to be Dealt with privately in a Gospel spirit and Way, and if that shall not take Effect then that Complaint be made of such Person to the Monthly Meeting to which he or she shall belong, and that proceedings thereupon be accordingly had, and the affair Settled with all Posible Speed & Expedition.

giving Cause of Dissatisfaction to be Dealt with

See 1698. p. 251

1727

1727 See Morning Meeting of Ministers, page, 195.

1728

1728 We Earnestly Desire, that a tender & prudent Care be on all Monthly & Quarterly Meetings, pursuant to the advice of Last Meeting, to advise & Caution as they see meet; And particularly against all Indecent postures & Gestures, unintilegible tones and Sounds, Misquotations and Misapplications of Scripture, Which renders such a Ministry Contemptible: And that they do not Grant Certificates to Ministers to Travel abroad to visit the Churches, until they have full Satisfaction of their Qualifications for so great a Work, and are of Orderly Conversations, being well approved at home. ——

Caution against indecent Postures & Tones &c.

to be fully Satisfied before they Grant Certificates

See Scriptures, page, 316.

1730

1730 Friends are Desired to Call on Strangers who Travel in the Ministry, for Certificates, thereby in all Places to prevent being Imposed upon, as far as may be.

See Meetings for Discipline, p. 171.

1731

1731 An Epistle of advice to Ministring Friends that Travel — &c —

Dear and well Beloved Friends

The spirit of God being The Foundation of all true Knowledge and Experience both in Ministers and hearers, We Earnestly Exhort, That all would Diligently wait upon and mind it; Ministers in their Publick Services Especially ought always to attend closely to their Several and peculiar Gifts; and Minister the Word Faithfully as it's Manifested and Revealed to them, observing a Decent & Modest Behaviour in the Exercise of their Ministry; and avoid Intangling themselves with the Affairs of this Life, that they may the better answer the holy warfare in which they are Engaged: And Let the hearers be watchful over their own Spirits, and not forwardly Judge or Censure the Testimonies which may be Delivered amongst them; for if they be not very careful & Diligent in attending upon the Lord in Meetings they are liable to mistake in the Judgment they may pass on the Ministry. Now this being as we apprehend a matter of great Moment for the Preservation of Love and Concord in the Churches; and knowing the Danger and Ill Consequences which attend an hasty and Censorious Judging of the Ministry, We thought it very Necessary to Caution the Members of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, not to Let their own Spirits sway them But Let the Spirit of God Rule and Reign in the hearts of Friends, for that will preserve all in Sweetness & Tenderness One towards Another; the due Observation of this, We Judge, will be a great help to Ministers in the Discharge of their Duty and Service to which they are Called.

And We Earnestly Request, That the Elders in Monthly and Quarterly Meetings Would be ready

1731 to Inform the weak, when Suitable Opperunities present, that both Ministers and hearers pursuing one and the same End, namely the Glory of God, and the good and welfare one of another, the Church may be Edified Increase & Flourish to the Consolation of the Faithful: On the Other hand We advise, that Ministers have it very much at heart to Maintain a perfect Harmony and good Understanding with the Monthly Meetings to which they belong; and that as the said Meetings may sometimes find themselves Concerned to advise them respecting their Conduct in Meetings or otherwise, that they Shew themselves ready to hear and receive advise, as well as Teach and Instruct

Ministers to keep good harmony with their Mon: Mety

and ready to receive advice

And Dear Friends We further tenderly Advise all Monthly Meetings to take great care to whom they give Certificates when they Travel, to prevent the Uneasiness which sometimes falls on the Churches from a weak and unskilful Ministry; And Let the Elders where they See Occasion advise Ministers to be very prudent in their Conduct, not as Busy body's nor meddlers with Family or Personal Affairs in which they are not Concerned or required to be Assisting; and that they be very tender of One anothers Reputation, And that of Friends among whom they Travel, neither giving Ear to, nor Spreading reports apt to raise in the minds of others a Lessening or Disesteem of any of the Brotherhood. And as Soon as their Service in the Ministry is over, That they return to their Habitations, and there take a Reasonable and prudent care of their own Business, Household and Family.

Monthly Meetings to be careful in giving Certificates

1736

1736 And as the Lord in Mercy is breathing a fresh on Several of Our Youth of both Sexes, and fitting them for His Service, We Recommend it to the Elders in every Meeting that they tenderly watch over all young Ministers, and advise and help them, as they in the Wisdom of Truth may be Opened thereunto; Nourishing that which is right, and comes forth in the Savour of Life, and Discouraging every thing that is Indecent or unbecoming the Ministry.

1737

1737 If any Friend who has been a Publick Minister among you, shall be guilty of such Practices as may Justly Deserve your Publick Censure, and shall be Publickly Censured or Disowned by you, and afterwards upon tokens of Repentance may be again admitted into Membership; We do think meet to advise you, That such readmission be not interpreted to gim him or her the Liberty of appearing as a Publick Minister, until the Monthly Meeting he or she belongs to shall Judge the Scandal given by such Person so far Removed, as such Publick appearance may not Minister Occasion of Reproach either from Friends or others, and in case any shall shew themselves too forward in so appearing, the Meeting to which they belong are Desired to give them such advice as they shall See Suitable to their Circumstances.

a publick friend Censured or Disowned readmitted &c

1738

1738 When We Consider that it was the Power of the Lord which first Gathered us to be a People, and Enabled Our Ancients to bear a Faithful Testimony to His Name, We cannot but Exhort you time after time to wait for a Renewed Enjoyment of the Power of Truth upon your Hearts, that thereby you may be Encouraged to Come up in your respective Services, and in a Conscientious

Suffering

1738 Suffering for the Christian Testimony you are Concern=
=ed to bear: Our Blessed Lord Just before his Ascention
Commanded his Disciples & Followers to wait at Jerusalem
till they were Endued with Power from on high knowing
their inability, without the Sensible feeling of that Power,
to speak in his name for the Conversion of the Nations;
Twas this Power that Enabled them to Speak boldly in
the Name of Jesus; This alone made them able Ministers
of Christ, whose Preaching was not with Enticing words
of mans Wisdom, but in the Demonstration of the Spirit
and Power. — And Seeing many of Us have Experienced
much Spiritual Consolation, by waiting in Silence,
and humbly Depending upon the Lord alone, We Exhort
Friends to be very careful to Observe the hours appoint=
=ed for Religious Worship, and that when together, They
Labour to feel their minds abstracted from visible Ob=
=jects into a true Stillness and Nothingness of Self,
wherein the true Teachings of the holy Spirit are Wit=
=nessed by humble and Contrite Souls: in such a waiting
State You will have a true relish and Savour of the Mi=
=nistry of those who are rightly Concerned by the Same
Spirit to Labour in Word & Doctrine among you.

1740

1740 Testimonies Concerning Publick Friends deceased
to be Recorded, — See Records, page, 281.

1743

1743 And Dear Friends We farther Desire and tenderly
See 1727 p. 254 1731 p. 255 1736 p. 256 advise, as heretofore, That the Quarterly and Monthly
Meetings would appoint some Elder Friends Sound in
the Faith, and of good Discerning, to be advising and
Assisting to those who may be Concerned to Minister a=
=mong Us, and in Love to Caution them respecting such
Mistakes, either in Judgment or Expression as through
humane frailty even good men may sometimes be
incident to.

And

1743 accounts of Publick friends Deceased.

And that in Sending up to this Meeting the accounts of Publick Friends Deceased, care be taken wher no parti=cular Testimony concerning them is given, that Nevertheless the Age, place of abode, Time of Death, and place of Burial, as also how long they had been Ministers, be Expresly Mentioned

1745

1745 disorderly persons who travel up & down preaching without Certificates to be stopped

Whereas it appears unto this Meeting that some Per=sons who are not in Unity with their Monthly Meetings where they Dwell, do travel up and Down without Certificate or Recommendation, Imposing themselves as Preachers a=mong Friends, to the Exercise and Trouble of the Churches where they come; We do Desire, that all such Friends as Tra=vel in the Work of the Ministry with the Unity and Appro=bation of their respective Meetings, would be Strictly care=ful not to Countenance or Joyn with any such Imposers; but rather to advise against such their Disorderly practice, and Endeavour to Perswade them to return to their callings and Habitations: and Friends of the Several Monthly or other Meetings, where such Disorderly Persons may come are Desired to Enquire of them for their Certificates; by the want of which they may be able to Discover, that their travel=ing abroad is not with the Approbation of Friends where they Dwell, and who Consequently are the proper Judges of their call to, and Qualifications for the Work of the Minis=try to which they pretend.

And We do in much Love Caution those Friends who are rightly Concerned in the work of the Ministry, to watch over their own Spirits, and not to be over hasty rash or Censori=ous in passing Judgment respecting the state of those who hear them; but to Manifest, that in the Exercise of their Ministry, they are led by the Love of God, and

that

1745 that their principal Aim is, that they may be-
Instrumental to administer Spiritual Consolation
and Strength to the Churches where they come.

And farther We Earnestly Exhort that none would
offer to Impose themselves as Preachers in any Meetings
of Friends, who are not themselves found faithful A-
=gainst the Payment of Tithes, And in Observing the
Other Branches of Our Ancient Christian Testimony.

N°33 Concerning Prisoners.

1676

1676 See Records, page, — 277.

1681

1681 Advised that an Account be Yearly sent up of all such Friends as are in Prison or Prisoners, that We may know who are Detained Prisoners, and who are Discharged since the Yearly Meeting before, and when Discharged; also to Signifie the time of their Commitment, by whom prosecuted and for what Cause. And that Distinct Accounts be brought up of all such Friends as have Died in Prison or Prisoners for their Testimony to the Truth, Since the foregoing Yearly Meeting, with their Names, Ages, Dwelling places, Education, Callings, Time of Convincement, and the places of their Travel and Service, and time of Sufferings and Death.

1682

1682 See Questions, page, — 269.
and Records, page, — 278.

1696

1696 See Questions, page, — 269.

1700

1700 See Records, page — 280

Questions

1742

1742 The Comittee appointed to Consider the Queries instead of the former Queries have Drawn up the following; which were here Several times read duly Considered, and agreed to. And tis agreed by this Meeting, that the Several Counties Send up their Answers to the said Queries to this Meeting Seperate from their Accounts of Sufferings which for the future are agreed to be taken in immediately after the Accounts of Sufferings are Entered.

Queries altered

New Queries

1. What Present Prisoners?
2. How many Discharged since last year, when & how?
3. How many Died Prisoners?
4. How many Meeting houses Built? and what Meet=ings new Settled?
5. How many publick Friends Died & when?
6. What is the state of your Meeting? Is there any Growth in the Truth? and doth any Convincement appear since last Year? and is Love & Unity pre=served amongst you?
7. Is it your care by Example & precept to train up your Children in all Godly Conversation, and in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures as also in plainness of speech, Behaviour & apparel?
8. altered See p. 273 Do you bear a Faithful and Christian Testimony against the Receiving or paying Tithes? And against bearing of Arms? And do you admonish such as are unfaithful therein?
9. Do you stand Clear in our Testimony against De=frauding the King of his Customs Duties or Excise, or in Dealing in Goods Suspected to be Run?
10. How are the Poor among you Provided for? and what care is taken for the Education of their Offspring?

Questions

1742. 11th. Do you keep a Record in your Monthly and and Quarterly Meetings of the Prosecutions and Sufferings of your respective Members? and have you a Record of your Meeting houses & Burial Grounds?

1744

1744 It is Agreed by this Meeting, that the Eighth Query be altered and Amended as followeth Viz.t,

the 8th Query altered. Do you bear a faithful & Christian Testimony a=gainst the Receiving or paying Tithes, Priest's Demands, and those called Church Rates? Bearing Arms, And paying Trophy Money? And do you admonish such as are unfaithful therein?

1760

At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was agreed and Concluded that the following Queries should be here Added

1st. Are all Meetings for Religious Worship & Discipline duly attended, the hour Observed, and are Friends pre=served from Sleeping, or any other Indecent Behaviour therein particularly Chewing Tobacco or taking Snuff?

2nd. Is Love and Unity maintained among you as becomes Brethren, are Tale-bearing, Backbiting, and evil reports Discouraged and where Differences arise, are Endeavors Speedily Used to End them?

3d. Are Parents of Children Careful to bring them up in plainness of Speech, Behaviour, and Apparel and in the frequent Reading the holy Scriptures to restrain them from Reading pernicious Books & the Corrupt Conversation of the World?

Questions

1760

4th.. Are Friends careful to avoid the frequent Use of Spiritous Liquors the Unnecessary Frequenting of Taverns and places of Publick resort, and in all their Conversation walk as becomes the Professors of the Blessed Truth, in true Moderation & Temperance on the Account of Births, Marriages, & Burials and all Other Occasions?

5th.. Are Poor Friends Necessities duly Inspected, they Relieved, or Assisted in such Business as they are Capable of, Do their Children freely partake of Learning to fit them for Business, and are they and other Friends Children placed among Friends?

6th.. Do no young or unmarried persons, make proposals of Marriage with Each other, without Consent of Parents and Relations Concerned, nor keep Company with those of other Societies on that account?

7th.. Do no Widowers or Widows make or Admit of proposals of Marriage too Early after the Decease of former Husband or Wife, and are not the Rights of Children by former Marriages Neglected?

8th.. Do you maintain a Faithful Testimony against the Payment of Priests Wages, Bearing of Arms, Training or Military Service, and against Depriving the King of his Duties, or buying or vending of Goods Suspected to be Run?

9th.. Are Friends Careful to make their Wills and Settle their outward Estates whilst in Health, and take Friends Advice therein when Necessary, and are Publick Gifts or Legacies applied to the Uses Intended by the Donors?

10th.. Are Friends Clear of Importing Negroes or buying them when Imported, and Use those well where they are Possessed by Inheritance or Otherwise Endeavouring to train them up in the Principles of Religion?

11th. Are Friends Careful to Live within the Bounds of their Circumstances, & to avoid Launching into Trade & Business beyond their ability to manage and thereby break their Promises and Neglect the payment of their Just Debts, and are such as give Reasonable grounds of Fear on those Accounts timely Laboured with for their Recovery?

Questions

1760 12th. Are there any belonging to this Meeting Removed Without a Certificate, Or are there any Come from other places Appearing as Friends who have not Produced Certificates?

13th. Are you Concerned Regularly to Deal with all Offenders in the Spirit of Meekness & Wisdom, without Partiality or unnecessary Delay and where any Continue Obstinate to place Judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth?

And it is further Recommended that all Contention and Personal Reflection and Smiting be kept out of Our Meetings, That all Friends be Careful to keep out of heats, and passions and Doubtful Disputations, and that We Suffer no Turbulent Contentious persons amongst Us in Ordering Or Managing the Affairs of Truth, but that the Same be Managed in the Peaceable Spirit and Wisdom of Jesus with Decency forbearance & Love to Each Other.

N°35 Concerning Records.

1675.

1675 See Discipline, page. 99.

1676

1676 what matters are to be recorded

Agreed, that Friends of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings of each County be reminded to keep an Exact account among themselves —

1st Of those that first brought the Message of Glad tidings among them.

2nd Of the Sufferings of those First Messengers, whether at Steeple houses Market places or Otherwise.

3d. What Friends first Received them, and their Message.

4th. Of the Names, Travels, Faithfulness, and Unblame=able Conversations of all the Publick Labourers that are Deceased.

5th. What Judgments fell upon Persecutors.

6th. Where the hearts of any such Enemies have been turned to God. Let them and their Conversion be record=ed.

7th. What Priests and others have written Books against Friends, and who have answered them.

8th. Who have Suffered Loss of Goods, or Sustained Impri=sonment, with the Cause, Time and Manner of such Suf=ferings with the Names of their Persecutors.

9th. Who have Died in Prison on Truths account, and for what Branch of our Testimony: and that Tithes taken away by force be Recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

10th. of Signal Living Testimonies of Dying Friends.

11th. of the Names of Persecutors, and the Names of witnes=ses to the Facts, whether Friends or Neighbours.

12th. If any have Apostatized That their Sufferings whilst Owning the Truth be Notwithstanding

Recorded

1676 Recorded, and their Apostacies Signified.
13th. Of the Return of any Backsliders or Apostates and the Judgments befallen any of them.

And that in Sending the Accounts of these Matters, and of Sufferings, up to London, care be taken to begin where they left off last, and not to send the same twice over nor Confusedly.

1678

1678 Each Mon: Meetg to keep a book to enter Sufferings & send accot to the Quart: meetings

That care for the future be taken to keep a particular Book to Enter Sufferings in Each Monthly Meeting; and that by the Monthly Meetings an account of the Sufferings be sent to the Quarterly Meetings; And that the Quarterly Meetings transmit the Accounts Quarterly to the Clerk at London, that nothing be lost in their Cases of Sufferings for our Testimony. — See Tithes, page, 365.

1680

1680 yearly Meeting papers

It is the Desire of this Meeting that every Quarterly Meeting enter such papers as they have had from this Or such like Meetings in their respective Quarterly Meeting Books, the better to Secure them from being Lost.

1681

1681 See Prisoners, page, — 265.

1682

1682 Epistles

Agreed that Epistolary Letters read in this Yearly Meeting be Entered in a Book, and that the Letters themselves be kept by the Clerk.

method for keeping the Records

Draw up the Sufferings fair in a Book, and not too Close; All Tithes by themselves; So for swearing, So for Conventicle Acts; So for Twenty Pounds a Month; Each by themselves; Then take the Number of all that Remain in Prison, both Old and New and the Number

of

1682 of them that Died in Prison, and so keep a Number of them all along that are put into Prison, and that go out of Prison; and keep a Yearly Number who goes in, and who goes out; and bring them up Yearly to the Yearly Meeting.

1689

1689 The abstract of Friends Sufferings from Several Counties being Considered, the Meeting thinks it most Convenient to have the abstracts made from the Records out of those Sufferings that came up to the Yearly Meeting, and which are Recorded here; So that the Meeting does not Encourage the making abstracts in the Counties lest they Should Lessen Friends Sufferings. And when an History is taken and Published, it should be Impartially done; and accounts of the Steps put to Persecutions, and of Return of Goods; and Discharge of Prisoners, that have been Procured by the Solicitation of Friends to the Powers Whose Hearts the Lord Inclined to favour them.

1691

1691 Its Desired that Friends keep the Yearly Meeting papers together in a Book in Each Monthly and Quarterly Meeting.

1693

1693 It is Desired, That Friends at all their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings be reminded to Call for the Records of the Sufferings of Friends, to See that they be Duly gathered Entered and kept, and accordingly sent up, as hath been often advised; both of what Tithes &c are pretended to be due, and for how Long a time, and the time when taken, and by & for whom, and what Goods are taken, and the Value thereof, as well of those not Exceeding as those Exceeding the Sums or Quantities Demanded, it being a Suffering in both for Truths Sake; they being in those particulars found Defective and Imperfect in divers Counties which is an Obstruction to the General Record of Friends Sufferings, and therefore the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are desired To take more Care for the future, That all Friends

Sufferings

1693 Sufferings for Truths Sake may be brought as full and Compleat in all respects as possibly may be.

1694

1694 Advised that when Friends send up their Yearly Accounts of Sufferings for Tithes &c, as near as can be, they give account therewith how much is taken in value, and how much it exceeds the pretended value, and by and for whom. ——

Advised, to remember to keep a true Record of Manifest Judgments upon Persecutors, and send up an Account thereof with the Sufferings Yearly, that the Just Judgments of God in pleading the Cause of the Innocent Sufferers, by Signally punishing their Persecutors, may be taken notice of as a Warning to Posterity, as the heavy Judgments, and fearful Ends of Wicked Persecutors are recorded in holy Scriptures and Books of Martyrs &c.

1695

1695 Advised to send up with the Sufferings true Copys of Warrants, Writs or processes of Commitment attested by the Jaylors.

1698

1698 See Tythes, page —— 368.

1700

1700 Advised that Friends keep exact and true accounts of all their Sufferings for Conscience Sake, both by distresses, Sequestrations and Imprisonments that We may be Capable to give a true account thereof to the Government when Necesity requires. — And to give Speedy Accounts when Friends are Discharged, from Imprisonments &c, and by what means.

1705

1705 It is tenderly advised, That Friends be careful to Stand faithful in their Ancient Testimony, And keep Exact Accounts of their Sufferings; — And when any Sufferings require Speedy care for Redress, and are written of to London, 'tis desired

the

1705 the Case may be truly and fully Stated, Dated, and Subscribed by the Sufferrer, and as often as can be Attested by some known Friend.

1737

1737 See Questions, page:- 290

1740

1740 This Meeting being Informed, that there is a great Deficiency in Entering into a proper Book, The Testimonies which are given forth by Monthly and Quarterly Meetings Concerning Publick Friends Deceased, Therefore Order, a Book to be got for that purpose, and the Testimonies to be Entered as they are brought up.

And that the Several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings from whence they come be particularly Careful to Enter the Same in their Book of Records, before the said Testimonies are Sent up.

1746.

1746 See Sufferings, page, 351.

N°36 Rules for Removals & Settlements.

1737

1737 1st. That all Friends shall be Deemed Members of
pt the Quarterly, Monthly, or Twoweeks Meeting, within the Compass of which They Inhabited or Dwelt the First Day of the fourth Month 1737; Except such who are Settled Pensioners to, or have within One year last past been Relieved by, any Other Such Meeting: in that Case he She or they Shall be deemed a Member or Member of the Meeting to which they are Pensioners, or by whom they have been so Relieved.

2nd. 2nd. That if any Friend or Friends shall remove him her or themselves and Family from the Limits or Compass of One Quarterly, Monthly, or Twoweeks Meeting into Another, they shall apply to the Meeting to which they belong for a Certificate, or Other Usual Recommendation, to the Meeting they are Removed, or purpose to Remove, into, which being Obtained and Delivered to that Meeting Such Friend or Friends shall from thence forward be deemed a Member or Members of the Meeting they so remove into; Provided they were not Insolvent, or had been Relieved by the Meeting Recommending, or some other Meeting on their behalf, within the Term of three Years preceeding the Delivery of such Certificate.

But if any Friend or Friends who has Delivered a Certificate, or been otherwise Recommended, Shall fall into Necessitous Circumstances, and shall ask & Receive any Relief within the above Limited time of three Years not having Contributed to, or been Employed in any Service of the Church by the Meeting they were Recommended to Such Friend or Friends shall then Continue to belong to the Meeting

from

1737 from whence they were Recommended, Yet the Meeting within the Compas of which he she or they Reside shall Assist & Relieve him her or them, and give notice thereof to the Meeting which Recommended him her or them; and upon that Meetings receiving such notice, They shall Immediately take the Necessary care of him her or them, and repay the Charge the Meeting to which they were Recommended has been at on his her or their account.

3d 3. That no Friend or Friends Apprentices and other Servants excepted, Shall gain a Settlement after the time above Mentioned in any Meeting Unless Recommended by Certificate or other Usual Recommendation, and the same duly Delivered to the Meeting they are recommended to; Except the Meeting within the Compas of which they Reside shall receive their Collection, or Employ them in any Service of the Church; But in case such Meeting shall receive their Collection or Employ them in any Service of the Church, their so doing shall Intitle such Friend or Friends to Membership with them, agreeable to the Restriction and Tenour of the Second Paragraph.

4th 4th. If any Friend or Friends shall fall into Want, the Monthly Meeting within the Compas of which they then Reside, shall take the Necessary Care to Relieve them: And in Order to prevent any Inconveniencies that may arise from want of knowing with Certainty to what Meeting a Poor Friend or Friends properly belong, at the time they fall into want, whereby it may be rendered Difficult for the Monthly Meeting which shall Relieve such Necessitous Persons, to Obtain repayment of the Charge They may be at on Such Accounts, It is agreed, That where any Poor Friend or Friends shall become Chargeable to any

Meeting

1737 Meeting where He She or they may Reside, and Who at the same time are not proper Members thereof. That Meeting may apply to any Meeting where such Friend or Friends have been Members; and that Meeting upon Notice to them given of such Necessitous Friend or Friends, shall take the Needful Care of them, and repay the Charge the Meeting in which they Reside hath been or shall be at. But if that Meeting shall apprehend such Necessitous Person or Persons do not belong to them, but have gained a Settlement Elsewhere They may Fix them on any other Meeting where they have Gained a Settlement; and in that Case such Meeting shall repay them the Charges they have been at.

5th. 5th. Single Men & Women Servants being hired One Year, and Honestly Serving the Same in One Family, after such Years Service Shall belong to the Meeting of which their Master or Mistress shall be Members; and if such Servants shall so Dwell with any who are not Friends, then they shall be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress shall Live.

6th. 6th. Apprentices shall gain a Settlement in that Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress Dwell at the time of his or her being bound, and Living Forty Days with such Master or Mistress afterwards: And in Case an Apprentice Shall be turned over to another Master or Mistress, He or She Shall in Like manner gain a Settlement, after Living with them Forty Days, in the Meeting within the Compass of which the Master or Mistress Dwell, To Whom He or She is so turned over.

7th. 7th. Provided Always that nothing herein Contained shall be Understood to hinder the Usual & Necessary Care of Friends in their Inquiry after Conversation and Clearness respecting Marriage but

Certificates

Removals & Settlements

1737 Certificates or other Recommendation in that Case Shall Continue to be required as heretofore hath been from such Meetings as the Friend hath belonged to. And Whereas Disputes may arise about Settlements where the Man brings a Certificate or Recommendation from his own Monthly Meeting to another on account of Marriage, It is hereby Agreed, that Such Certificate or Recommendation shall not be Construed to make a Settlement Unless his Removal be Expressed therein.

8th. 8th. The Wife and Children to be Deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting of which the Husband or Father is a Member, not only During his Life, but Likewise after his Decease, until they Shall gain another Settlement Elsewhere.

9th. 9th. Provided always, and it is hereby Agreed, That what Charge any Meeting have or may be at, for the Relief of any Friend or Friends, who were before this Settlement Members of other Monthly Meetings, shall be repaid to the said Meeting by the Meeting to which they did heretofore belong; And that if any Dispute Should arise about the Settlement of such Poor Friend or Friends now under Relief, Such Settlement or Settlements shall be Determined according to the former* Rules and Directions; which are not to be made Use of in any other Cases.

*See under the head Poor

Lastly. All Minutes, Orders and Directions heretofore made and Recommended by this Meeting Relating to Removals & Settlements of Friends, are hereby Declared Void and of no Force Except in the Cases Provided for in the Ninth Paragraph.

Lastly which are under head Poor

Removals & Settlements

1740

1740 It is Agreed, that no Proposition for altering the Rules for Removals & Settlements of Friends made in 1737, shall be received by this Meeting, Unless such Proposition shall be Signed in and by Order of a Quarterly Meeting, Or some other Meeting which do Directly Correspond with this Meeting.

1747 See Discipline, 1747 page, 103.

Representatives

No. 37. Concerning Representatives

1672.

1672 Advised, That One or Two of Each County that are Concerned in the Publick Service of Truth in Each respective County, do come up to this Meeting Once a year, to be Chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meeting of each County Respectively for that purpose.

See Yearly Meeting, page, 411.

1687

1687 Advised, That such Faithful Friends, One or Two of a County be Desired to attend the Yearly Meeting, as are most capable & fit for the Service thereof.

1688

1688 That Two faithful Friends in Every County may be Desired to come up, who know the State of Friends, and their Sufferings, in their respective Counties.

1690

1690 That Two Faithful Understanding Friends in every County be Desired to come up, who may be Enabled to give a Certain account of the Condition & Sufferings of Friends in their respective Counties.

1691

1691 That Two faithful Understanding Friends in Every County, who are truly approved in Universal Love U-nity & Peace among Friends from whence they come may be Desired to come up, who may be Enabled to give a Certain & Clear account of the Condition and Sufferings of Friends, and of Truth's Prosperity in their respective Counties.

1700

1700. Agreed, that no County Send up less than Two Friends, nor more than Four be Entered.

advised

Representatives

1700 Advised, that Friends bring brief and direct answers to the Questions, drawn up at the Quarterly Meetings, and brought in writing to the Yearly Meeting.

1706

1706 See Questions, page ——— 200

1709

1709 not to go out of Town before the Meetg Ends

This Meeting Understanding some Friends that are Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting is Ended; It is now advised and agreed that for the future no Representatives go out of Town before the Meeting Ends, without firs acquainting the Meeting thereof, that the Service of this Meeting may not be Neglected.

1714.

1714 Qualifications

Recommended that Friends take Care that those who are Desired & Appointed to come up to Yearly Meetings may be men Fearing God, of good Conversations of weighty spirits, Prudent & Sincere, and well acquainted with the Affairs of Truth at home.

1728

1728 Four to be Appointed

Advised That the Several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties & Cities do appoint at Least four Friends in order that in Case a part should be Disappointed by sick-ness or other Accident, there may be a Sufficient Number to answer the Service.

1730.

1730 County of York may have Eight

This Meeting gives Liberty, in regard of the Large-ness of the County of York, that for the future they may be allowed to Enter any Number as Representatives not Exceeding Eight.

1733

1733 And Dear Friends our tender and Brotherly ad-vice to your Several Quarterly Meetings, is, that they

would

1733 would be careful Annually to Depute such Friends to attend the Service of the Yearly Meeting, as are well ac-
Qualifications =quainted with the Affairs of the Church, and Diligent-
=attenders of the Meetings for Discipline in the respective Counties & places where they Dwell, and whose practice and Conversation is Answerable to the Testimony They Profess to bear.

1743

1743 We advise, that the Several Quarterly Meetings take care to appoint for their Representatives and Correspon=
=dents, Men known to be faithful and Conscientious in every Branch of Our Christian Testimony.

1746

1746 This Meeting Observing a Deficiency in divers
attendance required Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, Recom=
=mends to the Several Quarterly Meetings, the following Minutes Viz^t:

A Minute of this Meeting in 1728. (See page, 302)
& a Minute of this Meeting in 1733 (See p. 302 & 303.)

1750

1750 The advice of 1728, again Earnestly Recommended,
——— See Yearly Meeting, page, 419.

N. 38. Concerning Salutations.

1715

1715 See Plainness, page, 226

1718

1718 Advice Given against a Declension crept in among Us, by Unbecoming Gestures, in Cringing and Bowing the Body by way of Salutation, which Ought not to be taught or Countenanced.

1772 As to the Consistancy of the members of our Society joining themselves with those Called Freemasons we have Deliberated upon and according To our Present Judgment think it is not Consistant With our Religious Profession and advise the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings dispwade their members therefrom And if any Continue therein or Join therewith Contrary to the advice herein Contained that they Be dealt with as such who Refuse the advice of Friends

Schools.

No. 39. Concerning Schools.

1690

1690 See Children, page, 40.

1695

1695 Advised That Schools, and School Masters who are Faithful Friends and well Qualified, be placed and Encouraged in all Counties, Cities, Great Towns or Places, where there may be need; and that such School Masters, as much as may be, Sometimes Correspond One with A=nother, for their help and Improvment in such good and Easie Methods as are most agreeable to the Truth, and the Childrens Advantage and Benefit; and that Care be taken that Poor Friends Children may freely partake of such Education in Order to Apprentiship.

1696

1696 See Children, page, 41 & 42.

1697

1697 Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are Desired to take care, that in all Places where Schools are set up for the teaching of Friends Children, that the Masters be Dili=gent to Improve and forward their Scholars in Learning, and keep them out of every thing that would Corrupt good Manners.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 179.

1751

1751 As the want of Proper Persons amongst Friends Qualified for School Masters hath been the Occasion of great Damage to the Society in many Places, as thereby well Disposed Friends are Deprived of Opportunity's

for=

Schools

1751

for the Education of their Children in a Manner Consistent with a Religious Concern for their welfare have been Necessitated to Send them to those of other Perswasions whereby the tender minds of such Children have been in great Danger of being Leavened into the Language Customs and Habits of the World, from whence it is Difficult afterwards to Reclaim them; We Desire, Friends would attend to this Important Point; And in their Monthly Meetings Assist Young Men of Low Circumstances Whose Genius and Conduct may be Suitable for that Office; with the Means requisit to Obtain the proper Qualifications, and when so Qualified, afford them the Necessary Encouragement for their Support.

N° 40 Concerning the Scriptures.

1706

1706 Advised, that Parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them with, and bring them up in the frequent Reading of the Scriptures of Truth, and also to Instruct them in the great Love of God Through Jesus Christ, and the Work of Salvation by Him, and of Sanctification through his Blessed Spirit.

1709.

1709 We Recommend it as an Incumbent Duty on Friends to Cause their Children to be frequent in Reading the holy Scriptures, and in Observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early Learned the fear of the Lord, and hearkened to his Counsel; Instructing them in the Fear & Dread of the Lord, planting Impressions upon their Spirits of Reverence towards God, from whom they have their Daily Support, Shewing them they Ought not to Offend Him, but Love Serve and Honour Him in whose hand all Blessings are.

1712

1712 We Exhort all Parents of Children to be very Careful to Educate and train them up in the Fear of God, and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the holy Scriptures, and be good Examples to them in all things. 1720.

1720 Advised that no Friends Suffer Romances, Play books, or other vain & Idle Pamphlets in their Houses, or Families, which tend to Corrupt the Minds of Youth; But instead thereof that they excite them to the reading of the holy Scriptures and Religious Books.

Let

1720 Let the holy Scriptures be Early taught our Youth and Diligently Searched and Seriously Read by Friends, with due regard to the holy Spirit from whence they came, and by which they are truly Opened: for they Contain Excellent Doctrine, Rules & Precepts, Divine and Moral, Insomuch that there will be no need to Enumerate or often to repeat Laws & Precepts like the Jews under a literal and Lower Dispensation and Co-=venant than We are Called into; the true Practice of the pure Religion given us will Answer all.

1723

1723 See Children, page —— 45

1728

1728 Advised, That Ministers as well as Elders and all Others, in all their Preaching, Writing and Convers-=ing about the things of God, Do keep to the form of Sound Words, or Scripture Terms, and that none pretend to be Wise above what is there Written, and in such pretended Wisdom go about to Explain the things of God in the words that mans Wisdom teaches But on the Contrary, that you would at proper times and Seasons, when you find your minds rightly Disposed thereunto, give the Youth to Understand, that the same good Experience of the Work of Sanctification through the Operations of the Spirit of God, which the holy Scriptures plentifully bear Testimony to, is to be Witnessed by Believers in all Generations as well as by those in the First Ages of Christianity; In which Case some Account of your own Experience will be helpful to them: And this we Recommend as the most Effectual means for begetting & Establishing in their minds, a firm Belief of the Christian Doctrine in General as well as the Necessity of the Aid & help of the Operations

of

1728 of the holy Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particu=
=lar. Contained in that most Excellent Book the Bible; and
for the preserving them from being Defiled with the many
Pernicious Notions and Principles Contrary to such Sound
Doctrines which are at this time Industriously dispersed
in the Nation, to the Reproach of the Christian Religion
in General.

1729

1729 'Tis earnestly Recommended to all Friends, as much as
in them lies, to prevent their Children and Servants from
reading plays, Romances, and all such Books as have any
tendency to Lead their minds from God, and Draw their
youthful Affections to a Love of the World, and desire after
the Vanities & Evils that are therein. And also to be very
careful to prevent their Children & Servants from reading
vile and Corrupt Books (some of which have been pub=
=lished of late) as manifestly tend to oppose and Reject
the Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to
Introduce Deism, Atheism, and all manner of Infide=
=lity & Corruption both in Principle and Practice.

1730

1730 We Did last Year, and do now again Earnestly
Recommend and Beseech all Friends to admonish
and Exhort the Youth under their care, not to read
but refrain all such Books as tend to make void the
Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to remote pro=
=phaneness and Infidelity in the Earth.

Scriptures

1731

1731 'Tis Recommended to all heads of Families that they do Frequently call their Children & Servants together, and in a Solemn Religious way cause them to read the holy Scriptures; and in so doing that they humbly wait upon God with their Fa-=milies, for Instruction and Counsel to them Re-=specting Christian Faith and Practice.

See Children, page, 46 & 47.

1732

1732 We tenderly & Earnestly Advise & Exhort all Parents and Masters of Families, that they Exert themselves in the Wisdom of God, and in the Strength of his Love to Instruct their Children & Families in the Doctrine and Precepts of the Christian Religion contained in the holy Scriptures: and that they Excite them to a diligent Reading of those Sacred Writings, which plainly Set forth the Miraculous Conception, Birth, Holy Life, Wonderful Works, Blessed Example, Meritori-=ous Death, and Glorious Resurrection, Ascention and Mediation, of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; And to Educate their Children in the Belief of those Important Truths, as well as in the Belief of the Inward Manifestation and Operation of the Spirit of God on their own minds, that they may reap the Benefit and Advantage thereof for their own Peace & Everlasting Happiness, which is infinitely preferable to all other Considerations: We therefore Exhort in the most earnest manner that all be very careful in this respect, a neglect herein being in our Judgment, very blameworthy; and further where any Deficiency of this sort appears, We recommend to Monthly & Quar-=terly Meetings that they stir up those whom it may concern to their Duty therein.

1733

1733 And Dear Friends we must remind you to take all Convenient Opperturnity's to put your Children upon Reading and Meditating in the holy Scriptures; which having proceeded from the Dictates of the holy Spirit do afford the most Comfortable and Salutary Instructions of all Writings whatever, as we have heretofore often advised, and particularly in Our Epistles of the two Last years, in which the Advices on this head being Large & Comprehen=sive We referr thereto.

1734

1734 As there hath been heretofore, so there yet remains upon this Meeting a peculiar regard to, and Weighty Concern for the Offspring of Friends, that the rising Gene=ration might be trained up in the Principles and Practice of the Christian Religion, in Order whereunto, as formerly so now again We Recommend an humble waiting upon the Lord, for the Manifestation of his Power and Spirit; and a Diligent reading the holy Scriptures in your Fa=milies: And that Masters of Families, Parents & Guardi=ans of Children, at proper and Convenient Opperlunities, would Stir up those under their Care to Diligence herein, Shewing them that those Sacred Writings do Contain the Doctrines and Principles of Our Profession, and Explain=ing to them, as the Lord by his good Spirit shall Enable, the Grounds and Causes Inducing Friends to Distinguish themselves by not Conforming to the vain Fashions and Corrupt Customs of the World. And that one great End of Christ's Coming was to form to himself a People, who by their Lives & Conversations should be patterns of that Simplicity, Holiness & Charity which Our Great Lord himself in the most Perfect manner Exhibited Leaving us an

Example

1734 Example that we Should follow his steps. —
By Simplicity We Understand an inward Sincer-
-rity and Lowly Disposition of mind, producing
that plainness of speech Habit & Manners which
Christ himself, and his holy Apostles Recommended.
By Holiness, an Internal purity and Renovation
of Soul, wrought in us by the Grace of God, the Fruits
whereof are, a Devout and Religious Behaviour Justice
and Inoffenciveness in all our Dealings and Con-
-versation. —— By Charity, that Spirit of Love,
Compassion and forbearance, wherein Consists the
Sum and Substance of Religion, the Introduction
of that Universal Peace and Good-Will upon Earth,
which is the Great Design of Christianity, as well
as the Badge and Characteristick of Our holy Pro-
-fession; By this Saith Our Blessed Lord, shall all
men know that ye are my Disciples, if ye have
Love One to Another, John 13. 35.

1735

1735 As it hath been frequently the care and Concern of
this Meeting, to advise Parents and all who have the
Tuition & Education of Children, to bring them up in the
Nurture & Admonition of the Lord, We are still Sensi-
-ble that there is Occasion to repeat our tender advice
and Exhortation, that you would Lay this matter Closely
to heart, for 'tis Certain that the preservation of your
Offspring in the way of true Religion and Godliness is
of much greater moment to their happiness both in
this Life and in that which is to Come, than anything
else you are Capable of doing for them; and therefore
We renew Our advice, that you be Diligently Exercised
in such a Godly care, Waiting upon God for Wisdom
from him first to walk wisely and Circumspectly be-
-fore them yourselves, and then you may with more
weight and Authority, in the Meekness of that Wisdom

Instruct

1735 Instruct, Advise, Exhort & Rebuke, as you shall see Occasion: And we think it will Contribute very much to your Success in these Endeavours, if you put them fre=quently in a Solemn manner upon Reading the holy Scrip=tures, Especially such parts of them as relate to the great Doctrines and precepts of the Christian Religion, and then wait upon God with them, that you may become Instru=ments to open their Understandings, and in the Sense of His Power and Wisdom, press them Closely to the Practice of what they read: Such an Exercise as this begun Early, and frequently Repeated, We Recommend as the Indis=pensible Duty of all Concerned, and the most Likely Means for the Preservation and Improvement of Children in the way of Truth; and thrō the Lords Blessing to Secure them from being Prevailed upon by the many false & Deceitful Spirits that are gone forth into the World, tending to Subvert the Christian Faith, and a Practice and Conversation agreeable thereto.

1736

1736 See Children, page — 48

1737

1737 See Kings & Governours, p. 132

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline, p. 179

N° 41 Concerning Servants.

1703

1703 Advised that Servants professing the Truth behave themselves in Due Subjection Humility & plainness, as becomes their Profession and Places; and Likewise that Masters & Mistresses behave themselves towards their Servants According to the Apostles Direction Eph 6, 5. 6. Colos. 4, 1. — 1 Tim: 6, 1, 2. Tit: 2, 9, 10. 1 Pet: 2: 18, 19, 20.

1718

1718 A Religious Care is Recommended toward Our Ser=vants, that all Appearance of Pride, Idleness, and vain Conoersation in them may be Discouraged, and that they may be Exhorted to attend first day & Week day Meetings and have a Sense of Gods Love upon their Spirits, and therein Partake with Us of the Sweetness of Truth; and in the Discharge of their Duty to God, and to their Masters & Mistresses, know Peace in them=selves.

1737

1737 See Removals & Settlements, page, 288: 289

Singing

No. 42. Concerning Singing.

1675

1675 It hath been and is Our Living Sense & Constant Testimony according to Our Experience of the divers Operations of the Spirit and Power of God in His Church, That there hath been and is Serious Sighing Sensible Groaning, and reverent Singing, breathing forth an Heavenly Sound of Joy with Grace, with the Spirit, and with Understanding, in Blessed Unity with the Brethren, while they are in the Publick Labour and Service of the Gospel, whether by Preaching, Praying or Praising God, in the Same Power and Spirit, and all to Edification and Comfort in the Church of Christ, which therefore is not to be Quenched or Discouraged by any: But where any do or shall abuse the Power of God, or are Immoderate, or do either in Imitation, which rather Burthens than Edifies, Such ought to be privately Admonished, unless rebellious; for that Life Spirit, and Power is risen in the Church, which doth Distinguish, and hath Power accordingly to Judge.

Steple house Rates

No. 43. Concerning Steeple house Rates.

1688.

1688 See Sufferings page — 350.

1693.

1693 Advised, That Our Christian Testimony against Steeple house Rates or Lays. be Faithfully Maintain=ed.

1703

1703 See Tithes, — page — 369

1727 1727. See Tithes, page — 372

1732 1732. See Tithes, page — 372

1733 1733. See Meetings for Discipline, pa. 173 and Tithes, pa, 373

1744 1744. See Questions, p. 273

Stock National

N° 44 — Concerning the National Stock.

1672 & 1676.

1672 & 1676

The Uses for which it is Collected——

1. For the Service of Truth beyond Sea.
2. For Books Disposed of and given away to the Chief Rulers and Others.
3. For Packets of Post Letters with accounts of General Sufferings, and Charges of Recording, and often Transcribing the Same.

1679

1679 Disbursments out of the National Stock to be such only as shall be agreed and Directed by the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London, and not any other.

1682

1682 Agreed, that for keeping the Moneys of the National Stock, at every Yearly Meeting Three Friends shall be chosen, and those Three of the Six that have Served Two preceding Years, shall Yearly be Dismissed, and others to be appointed in their Room as aforesaid, so that the Number of Six may be still Compleat, Who Shall have the keeping of the Cash for the General Service Intended.

Six Friends to keep the Cash

1692

1692 Advised, That for the future when there Shall be Occasion for a Contribution, Friends that come up from the Several Counties, bring with them an Account of the Total sum of Each Collection, that may be made in their Respective Counties, to the next——

Ensuing

1692 Ensuing Yearly Meeting after such Collection is made that it may be Compared with the Accounts here, for Friends Satisfaction therein.

1698.

1698 Ordered, That when a Collection is made in the Several Counties, It may be sent up to their Correspondents here to pay to the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Friends of the Several Counties, when they Come up to the Next Yearly Meeting, to bring up the total Sum Collected and Returned in their County to the Yearly Meeting.

1732

1732 See Yearly Meeting, page, 416

Sufferings

No 45 Concerning Sufferings.

1672

1672 Advised, that Friends be Exact and brief in drawing up their Sufferings in Each County, Of the Times, Names, Causes, and Places of both Friends and their Persecutors, Distinctly, and Send them up to the Next General Meeting.

1675

1675 Meeting about Sufferings first appointed

Agreed, that Certain Friends of this City be here Nominated to keep a Constant Meeting about Sufferings four times in a Year, with the Day and time of Each Meeting here fixed and Settled.

Agreed, that a Meeting of these City Friends under Named be every fifth day of the Week before each Term.

Ratcliff.	Arthur Cook, and Richard Mew.
London.	John Osgood, and Thomas Rudyard.
Wheler Street.	Francis More, and William Welch.
Westminster.	Gilbert Latie, and James Beech.
Peel	John Elson, and John Staploe.
Southwark.	William Shewen, & Walter Myers.

Publick Friends Members

These Friends before Named, with as many as are free of the Second Days Morning Meeting of Publick Friends, to Meet together as aforesaid.

one of each County

That at Least One Friend of each County be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting thereof, to be in readiness to repair to any of the said Meetings at this City, at such times as their Urgent Occasions or Sufferings shall Require.

That the Agreement about the Meeting for Sufferings four times in a Year in London, be read to the Second Days Meeting of this City, constantly before the day of Meeting Appointed

Poor Friends wasted by Sufferings

That the respective Quarterly Meetings be Encouraged in the Love of God, and Bowels of his Truth to take care of such Poor Friends as have been wasted much

with

1673 Deep friends Wastee by Sufferings to be taken care of

with Sufferings, and where any County is not Sufficient to the Loses, among themselves, that they be mindful of the Order of Truth agreed to, of recommending their Case to the adjacent Counties.

That Notwithstanding the Meeling about Sufferings by the Nominated Friends of this City, It is Consented and agreed, That in any County, Meeting or Place in England or Wales, where any Deep Sufferings may happen the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings may both State their Case fit to be presented to those in Power, and Send up One Two or three faithful Friends with their Case so Stated to be presented, to attend those in Power therewith for Relief, if they be moved thereunto, or find a Necessity Lying upon them to Endeavour for Relief; and this is a most Likely way to be Effectual in their Applications.

1676

1676 See Records, Article the 12th and the Last; p. 277 & p. 278.

1678

1678 Mention is first made of the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London.

And See Records, page 278;

1679

1679 printing Agreed, that any Quarterly or Monthly Meeting has any Extraordinary or Grievous Sufferings in their County, that they would have Printed forthwith, that they give notice thereof, and Send up the Same to the Meeting for Sufferings.

1681

1681 That when Sufferings are sent up in Order for Redress, of any particular Case, the same be writ down as well to the Loss Sustained, Goods Distreined, Severe and Illegal treatment or Usage, by Justices or Other Persons; Plain, pertinent & Distinct as to matter of

Fact

1681 Fact only; without any reflections upon the Majestrates and Persons by whom Friends have Suffered, or against whom any Complaint is made.

That Sufferings sent up to be recorded here, be first Perused by the Quarterly Meeting, and Signed.

1682

1682 And when Necesity Requires that Accounts of Sufferings Be sent up with such speed, that they Cannot stay to a Monthly or Quarterly Meeting; that such Accounts be viewed and approved under the hands of three or four Friends at Least; to prevent Mistakes, and Loose Un=certain Accounts of things Complained of: And that before any Accounts be entered in the Quarterly Meeting Books, the same be plainly and Orderly Drawn up by some knowing Friends in such Concerns.

Upon Consideration of Sufferings in General, —— It is the Advice of this Meeting, that in Cases of Difficulty, and where Friends who are Sufferers stand in need of advice, in any particular Case, they send up their respective case to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1684

1684 If a Friends Goods be Seized, and a Neighbour Buy them from the Sheriff, and they by Bill of Sale be made over to him, and he Leave them in the Sufferers Posesion; It is a Suffer=ing Case, and to be Recorded as it is in it self.

'Tis thought most Convenient that all particular Accounts of any Great and Extream Sufferings which Re=quire Speedy Application or Complaint to the King &c, after Carefully Drawn up and Signed by the respective Suf=ferers, and the truth thereof if Possible, Certified by some other faithful Friends of the same County or Neigbour=hood, known here; That then they be brought up by One or Two Understanding Sound ——

Friends

1684 Friends that may be capable to present them if need Require, having knowledge of the particular Cases, and that no such accounts be sent up unsigned.

1688

1688 And it is the Desire of Friends Generally, That you all be careful in your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in Collecting the Sufferings of Friends by Priests and Impropriators for their Testimony a-gainst Tithes; And what goods are taken from them on that account, with the value thereof: and also about repairs of Steeple houses; And about not-Swearing; and all other Sufferings on Truths Ac-count: and Let them be carefully Recorded, and Witnessed, and Copies sent up to London from your Quarterly Meetings to your Correspondents: That the Sufferings of Friends for their Testimony may not be Lost.

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to Collect Sufferings

1689

1689 See Records, page 279

1693

1693 The Meeting for Sufferings is Intrusted with the Care of all Sufferings of Friends for Truth & Conscience Sake, as at first Intended.

See Records, page 279

1695

1695 See Records, page 280

1700

1700 See Records, page 280

1703

1703 And where any Friend or Friends shall be prosecuted upon any Branch of their Testimony for the Truth, That such Labour in a Sense of the Weight of their Testimony with the Prosecutor, before or at the Beginning of His Prosecution, that so if Possible, the Witness of God in him may be reached, and he Convinced that their refusal to Comply, proceeds not from Obstinacy, or self Interest, but from a Godly Care to preserve a Conscience void of Offence towards God and Man.

1746

1746 This Meeting Desires, that for the future an Account of all Proceedings in such Suffering Cases as come under the Care of the Meeting for Sufferings, and the Issue thereof, may be duly brought or sent to that Meeting in Writing; Specifying the Places or Counties where such Sufferers Dwell, with the Several Proceedings in the said Cases, in Order to be Duly Recorded.

1781 The Testimony of many friends in the Nonpayment of large part thereof now for the Support of war coming under Consideration of this meeting; It is our Sense and Judgment that the several monthly meetings collect accounts of the Sufferings of our Brethren on account of said Testimony and send them up to the meeting for Sufferings There to be Recorded after Due Inspection in Friends Book of Sufferings as our Brethren Testimony for the truth against the preparation of any Part thereof to the purposes of War and it is Recommended to friends that Labouring to be Preserved unbiased herein as to the Powers which are or may be they keep an Eye Single to the Testimony of Truth against war and fighting

No. 46. Concerning Talebearing & Backbiting.

1689

1689 Advised to watch against and Shut out all Occasion of Offences, Contentions and Divisions, and in the Name of the Lord to stop and Judge down all Whisperings, Tale-bearings Backbiting and evil speaking tending thereunto, and to be kind and tender hearted One to another, and Earnestly Labour and press for Universal Love, Union and Peace in all the Churches of Christ.

1692

1692 Advised, to be careful and Watchful against all Whis-perings, Backbitings & Tale-bearing, to the Defaming Friends or Others; and put a Speedy Stop thereto, and pass Righteous Judgment upon all Whisperers & Backbiters who appear Instruments of Division and Offences, Contrary to that Peaceable Truth and Gospel We Profess; and where any have received Offence against any other, first to Speak privately to the party Concerned, and Endeavour Reconciliation between themselves and not to whisper or aggravate matters against them behind their backs, to the making parties, and the Breach wider.

1695

1695 Let those Just and Ancient Commands of God be Observed, Lev: 19. 16, "Thou shalt not go up and Down
" as a Talebearer among thy People, and Exod, 23: 1.
" Thou shalt not raise a false report, and Psalms. 15: 3
" he that Backbiteth not with his Tongue, nor doth evil
" to his Neighbour, Nor taketh up a Reproach —
" against his Neighbour, &c —, 'tis only such Innocent

ones

Talebearing & Backbiting

1695 Once that shall abide in the Lords Tabernacle &, Dwell in his holy hill: Wherefore in the Feur of the Lord, stand against all Whisperers, Backbiters — Talebearers, Defamers & Slanderers; and against all Whisperings, Backbitings, Talebearings Reproach= =ing and Slandering, and put a Speedy stop thereto as much as in you lies; For such Works of Darkness and Envy tend to Division and Discord, and the righteous Law of God goes against both the Authors, Fomenters, Receivers and Encouragers thereof, See Prov, 11. 13. and, 18. 8 and 20. 19. & 26. 20. 22. and also 2 Cor, 12. 20.

1719.

1719 The former advice of 1695, repeated, with this Ad= =dition, and therefore if you hear a report of a Friend be careful not to report it again but go to the Person of whom the report is and Enquire if it be true or not and if it be true, then Deal with Such a Person for it, according to the Doctrine of Christ, Matt: 18. — But if false, then Endeavour as much as in you lies to stop such reports, for as Solomon says a Good name is rather to be Chosen than great Riches. Prov: 22: 1.

1721 1721 The advice of 1695 & 1719, Repeated,

1725 1725 The former advices again Repeated.

1727 1727 The same again Recommended.

1733

1733 We think proper to Exhort Friends Every where to avoid all Whisperings, Backbitings and Tale bearings tending to Blemish the Reputation of any, or to Sow Discord, and Create evil Surmisings One of another: A Practice which Ought to be Zeal= =ously Discouraged, as being of a most pernicious

Consequence

1733 Consequence to Society; 'Tis therefore Recommended, that when any shall hear a report of such a Nature, they take an Oppertunity to acquaint the Person Concerned thereof, before they again report, or be Instrumental to Spread the same: and in Order to Stop the Mouths of all Talebearers and Slanderers, Friends would do well to Manifest their Aversion to Such a Practice: "The North Wind, Saith Solomon" driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a Backbiting Tongue. Prov. 25. 23.

See Defamation, page, 93 & 94.

1744

1744 Whereas it may so happen, that some Friends may Suffer much in their Reputation & Character, by a Detracting Spirit, which too much Prevails among some bearing Our Name, Who shelter themselves under a pretence, That they say no more than they have heard from others; But will not Discover who they are: Wherefore to prevent this evil of Reporting and Talebearing to the Prejudice of Others It is Agreed that such Reporters or Talebearers Shall either Discover the Authors or be Dealt with and Testified against, as Authors thereof.

No 47 Concerning Tithes.

1675

1675 our ancient Testimony to be upheld

Advised, that our Ancient Testimony against Tithes, which we have Born from the Beginning, and for which many have Deeply Suffered, some not only the Spoiling of their Goods, but Imprisonment even unto Death, Be Carefully & punctually upheld and Countenanced in the Power of God; and that all those that Oppose, Slight or neglect that Testimony be looked upon, and Dealt withal as unfaithful to the ancient and Universal Testimony of Truth, according to Gospel Order Established among us.

offenders to be Dealt with

Innocency in Suffering to be kept to

See 1689. p. 367.

That Truth's Testimony against Tithes, and Friends Innocency in Suffering, be kept to; and tho Innocent Endeavours may be Used to save them from being taken away yet that Friends be careful of violent Strugling to detain them, when the Adversary Comes to take them by force.

1676

1676

That Tithes taken away by force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

no Consent

That all Friends have a care that they neither Openly nor Secretly Consent to the taking away of their Tithes, nor to the Payment of them by any one whatsoever on their Behalf, but keep Faithful to their Testimony.

1678

1678 of Tithes in kind

And because some have not kept an account of the Tithes in kind, that have been taken from them, as if that were no Suffering, because the Priests and Impropriators pretended Due; We find Our Selves Engaged in Spirit to Desire you to Reckon that of Tithes

amongst

1678 amongst the Other Sufferings that you send up; and for the time to come to take the same care of Recording all taken away upon that account in your Book of Sufferings.

See Records, page, 278

1682

1682 It is the Sense of this Meeting, that the Executors who have a Testimony for Truth, have a Testimony against the Paying of the Tithes pretended to be due from the Testator, and Ought to bear his Testimony against Payment thereof.

Executors

1687

1687 We do in the Love of God and his Blessed Truth and Testimony of Jesus Christ, Recommend to your tender and Christian care, That Friends in the Several Counties Do Sincerely keep to their ancient and Christian Testimony against that Old and great Oppression of Tithes, for which many Faithful Friends & Servants of Christ have deeply Suffered, (Some till Death in Jayls) and Several Still do Suffer, whereby it appears that the Priests, as they were the first so they are like to be the last Persecutors for Conscience Sake; — and also We Request it of you Carefully to Collect, and make return of all Friends Sufferings for Tithes, as well as other Sufferings whether by Imprisonments, or by taking away Goods, as Corn, Cattle, or other Goods, either by or without Law, both which are Sufferings, and ought to be Accounted of, and Entered upon Record, in Behalf of all Faithful Friends, who Stand Clear in their Testimony for Truth —.

Tithes taken with or without Law to be Recorded

1689

1689 We Desire your Testimony against Tithes may be kept up in the Peaceable Spirit of Christ, as becomes true Christians, rathe Suffering Patiently in the Spoiling of you Goods, than any ways to Strive or Struggle with the Spoilers, to retain them by force, But Singly Commit your Cause to the Lord, who will plead it, and Judge Righteously.

not to Strive with the Spoilers

1690

1690 That all Friends be faithful in their Testimony against Tithes of all sorts, knowing that Since they were Ended by Christ; they were Imposed and Originally Sprung from that Antichristian Root and Popish Usurpation in Church and State, And that Friends would Tenderly Consider, that where any Decline their Testimony, or are Negligent in this weighty Case, they do thereby Increase the weight and Burthen of Sufferings upon them that are faithful, and Strengthon the hands of their Adversaries.

1691

1691 That the Christian Testimony against Tithes may be duly kept up, and Such as are unfaithful therein, be Diligently Exhorted to Obedience and Faithfulness to Christ Jesus that they may not Strengthen the Persecutors hands, Increase others Sufferings, nor make void Truths Testimony therein, which so many have offered up, and Laid Down their Lives for.

1692

1692 That Friends be Careful & Diligent to keep up their Ancient Christian Testimony against the Oppression of Tithes; for the More Faithful & Unanimous Friends are therein, we are really Perswaded, the Lord will the Sooner make way for our Ease and Deliverance from that Burthen.

1693

1693 Advised, that our Christian Testimony against the Grand Oppression and Antichristian yoke of Tithes, Born and greatly Suffered for, be faithfully Maintained in all Respects.

1696

1696 With respect to a Proposal about taking a Farm and agreeing to pay so much the more to be Exempted from Tithes; It's Left to the Several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to Advise Friends to be careful that nothing be done that tends to weaken our Testimony against Tithes by any; and that such be Admonished as they See Cause.

1698

1698 Advised, That Our Ancient Christian Testimony against Tithes be not avoided or Shun'd by any Indirect ways or Courses with Landlords or Otherwise: And that Friends be Careful to keep a true Record of the value of what is taken from them on that Account, in the Field or Otherwise, whether it exceeds the Demand or Not; with the respective Date of Each Suffering; and the time when any suit is Commenced.

1701

1701 Our Testimony against Tithes and Forced Maintainance in this Gospel Day, being received from Christ our Head and High Priest is not of our Own making or Imposing, nor from the Tradition of Men, But what we have from him, by whose Divine Power We were raised up to be a People, and by which we have been preserved to this Day; knowing that His Ministry & Gospel are free, according to his own Express Command, freely ye have Received freely Give.

1703

1703 This Meeting taking notice, as well from the Accounts of Sufferings brought in from divers Counties, as Relations by several Friends now Present, that in many places Advantages are taken upon Friends, by making Stoppages upon them in the way of Trade, or by Debtors, or Otherwise, or by Kindred or Neighbours, Laying Down the money for Tithes, or Church Rates, so Called, and that this way of Proceeding grows & increases upon Friends in many Places. ——

Stoppages

It is therefore Recommended, as the Sense and Advice of this Meeting to the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to Stir up Friends in their Respective Meetings to Zeal and Faithfulness in this respect, that they may not Consent to, or Connive at, such Payments Stoppages, or Discountings on such Accounts; But to Deal plainly and Earnestly with their Relations or Neighbours who shall so pay, or others who shall so stop or Discount, and not Discharge the Debt by Crossing their Books, if Tradesmen, or Otherwise, but keep the Debt still in Demand; And be as wary and Careful as they can for the future, to keep such Persons, as much as in them lies out of a Capacity of Stopping upon them, that they may thereby Discourage all such ways of Proceeding, which tend to Weaken or Lessen their Testimony; And not to bring in such Stoppages as Sufferings in as much as they do not Discharge the Debt, which if they should do, they would thereby allow the Stoppage and so let fall their Testimony. ——

This Meeting Declares it is their Sense and Judgment, that no Friend in Truth can either pay or Receive Impropriate Tithes, being Inconsistent with Our Christian Testimony; And it's Desired Friends of the Several Counties may be Advised thereof.

Impropriate Tithes

1706

Tithes

1706

This Meeting Understanding that Notwithstanding the Judgment and advice formerly & frequently given by this Meeting against the payment of Tithes, and more particularly in the year 1703, against the paying or receiving of Tithes, by any that profess the holy Truth with Us; There are some Persons who go under Our name do yet Continue not only to pay them, but some few also here and there, having Estates in Impropriate Tithes (which are the same in Nature ground and Root with the Tithes paid to the Priest) do not forbear as yet to Receive them, to the great Dishonor of our holy Profession, and Grief of Faithful Friends (Tho' Others have Conscientiously and very honourably given up and Released them) This Meeting thereupon doth now again Signify, as the Unanimous Sense and Judgment of Faithful Friends, That for any among Us in this Gospel Day to pay or Receive Tithes, (which were a part of the Ceremonial Law, belonged to the Levitical Priesthood and were Abrogated, and taken away by the Coming, and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross) Doth Directly Oppose, and tend to Overthrow the Ancient Christian Testimony of Truth against Tithes, which hath been born by Friends from the Beginning of Our Day, not only by Word and Doctrine But by Deep Sufferings, and Sealed even with the Blood of Some of Our Dear and Faithful Brethren, who have Chearfully Laid down their Lives by Long and hard Imprisonments in Confirmation of that their Conscientious Testimony. — In the Sense hereof this Meeting Doth Earnestly Recommend to the Several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings every where of Friends; that they be Careful and Diligent to make General Observations how Friends do answer and bear up that Testimony against Tithes

in

1706 in their Practice, and if they shall find any going under Our name, that do Either pay or Receive Tithes, that they Use their best and Utmost Endeavours, in the Spirit & Order of the Gospel, and in the Exercise of great tenderness and Brotherly kindness, to Inform, Convince, Exhort, Admonish and Reprove, as they See Cause, all such without Respect of Persons, in Order to Gain and bring them to the Acknowledge=ment and Obedince of the Truth in that particular. —— And if after such tender and Gentle Dealing with them, any such Shall Continue in their Unfaithfulness and Op=position to the Principle and Christian Practice of Friends in that Case, that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting unto which such Person shall be reputed to belong, having Exercised Christian Patience and forbearance towards such, and finding themselves Clear in the Sight of God, Do Manifest and Declare, that such for their Unfaithfulness and Oppo=sition to that Our Christian Testimony, are unworthy to be Admitted to the Meetings for Business amongst Friends, or to be Received to Join in the Collections made by Friends For the Service of the Church of Christ, and if after that, such Persons shall Persist in such their Unfaithfulness & Opposition, That then the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting proceed fur=ther in the Lords Power to give Judgment for the Clearing of Truth & Friends, as in the holy Counsel and Wisdom of God, they Shall be Directed and Guided therein.

1724

1724 Former Advices again Recommended.

1725

1725 'Tis Advised and Earnestly Recommended, that inas=much as it doth appear there is in some Places a Shortness and Deficiency in bearing a Faithful Testimony against Tithes; that in any Monthly Meeting which have such Members, after a Deliberate Dealing with them

in

1725 in the Wisdom of Truth, and the meek spirit of the Gospel, for their help and information, Friends have Recourse for their further Proceedings to the Yearly Meetings Minute 1706.

1727

1727 It doth appear to this Meeting that Friends in divers places are under Difficulty on account of Stop=pages made in respect to Demands for small Tithes, and Church Rates so Called, and for Illegal Seizures without Warrents on such Accounts, which are in some places made, whereby We Apprehend a Voluntary Com=pliance is Implied; which doth tend to weaken and lay wast our Testimony, And therefore this Meeting doth tenderly Renew the Caution and Advice thereupon given in a Minute in the Year 1703, whereunto We † p: 369 Refer. †

1730

1730 Friends are heartily Desired and Intreated to Read and Disperse Anthony Pearson's Great Case of Tithes, hoping it may have this good Effect, if read with a Single Eye, to Manifest the Inconsistency of Tithes with the Gospel Dispensation.

1731

1731 Former Advices of this Meeting again Recom=mended, and particularly that in 1706.

1732

1732 Recommended to the Several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, tenderly to Advise and Ear=nestly to Exhort Friends to be Careful in bearing a Faithful Testimony against the Antichristian

Yoke

1732 Yoke of Tithes, Priest's Maintenance, and Church Rates so called; the want whereof in some places hath tended to the Uneasiness and Sorrow of many Brethren, and added to the Sufferings of such as have stood faithful in this our Ancient and Christian Testimony.

1733

1733 This Meeting Observing a Remissness in some Places in respect to Our Testimony against that Anti-christian Yoke of Tithes; an Earnest Concern and Zeal has been on the Minds of Friends, that all might be Excited and Stirred up to Faithfulness therein; In Order whereunto We think Necessary to put you in mind, that the Zeal of Our Friends who have abode Faithful in their Testimony against paying Tithes, Steeple house Rates, and Priest's Maintenance, has greatly tended to the Opening the Eyes of many, not only in this, but also in Other Countries: — We received Last year an account from New England, Where Our Friends formerly Underwent Grievous Sufferings, that a Law is made Exempting them from paying Either to the Maintenance of the Established Ministers, or the Repairing of their Worship houses: — And it is Our Belief, that if all Friends here had been Faithful in their Testimony against Tithes, the time of our Deliverance from that Oppression, under which this Nation yet Groans, would have been nearer at hand. We do therefore Earnestly Exhort to a Close Coming up in that, and every Other Branch of Our Testimony, tending to the Promotion of Gospel Liberty; which it has been Our Concern ever Since We were a People, Thrō Manifold Sufferings to Maintain. And if any Weakness or Unfaithfulness shall appear among the Professors of Truth —, We hope Faithful Friends and Brethren will not be wanting to administer help and Admonition in the

Love

1733 Love and Counsel of God, as they shall see Occasion, for the Restoring and Strengthning of such; According to the Advice given by the Apostle, Gal: 6. 1. "Brethren " if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are Spi= " =ritual, Restore such an One in the Spirit of Meekness."

See Meetings for Discipline, page, 173.

1734.

1734 And Dear Friends for the Sake of those particular Persons in some Places, who yet Continue Remiss in Maintaining their Testimony against the Antichris= =tian Yoke of Tithes We think Necessary to repeat the advice given Last Year, That Friends as they shall see Occasion, in the Wisdom of God, would Admonish such, and in a Spirit of Love and Meekness Endeavour to help and Strengthen them, and to Excite and Stir them up to Faithfulness in that Branch of Our Ancient Testimony.

1735

1735 And Dear Friends as it hath been the Concern of this Meeting frequently to Advise, that Friends should stand faithful in their Testimony against that Anti= =christian Yoke of Tithes, so We do now renew Our advice in that respect. —

And We Earnestly Entreat the Faithful among you, to take all Suitable Opperturnities of Endeavour= =ing to Demonstrate to such as are weak and Unfaith= =ful, the Importance of Our Testimony against — Receiving or Paying of Tithes, the Natural tendency where of is to Obtain that Liberty which the purest Ages of Christianity Enjoyed, that is, a Liberty for any Person Moved by the holy spirit of God, to — Preach the Doctrine of the Glorious Gospel of Our

Lord

1735 Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ freely, and of which they were not Deprived till such time as great Corruptions of Doctrine and Practice were found amongst the Professors of Christianity and the Civil Powers were prevailed upon to meddle with the Consciences of the People, which of right are to be Subjected to God only.

We Cannot therefore but Bless the Lord, from an Experimental Witnessing of the Comfort and Spiritual Advantage which arises from such a Liberty, that He was Pleased to raise up our Worthy Elders, and give them a Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke, makeing them willing in this and Other Nations to Suffer for that Testimony, thereby Shewing to the World what the Love of Christ is able to Do; - For We Believe nothing Short of that Love could have Enabled them to Suffer the Spoil of their Goods, and the long Imprisonments of their Body's, even unto Death, as some of them Did for their Conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes; - And We have Reason to Believe, that if all among Us had followed their Example, by abiding Faithful in this Our Christian Testimony We might before this time have Been in a great Measure Relieved from Under that Oppression.

1736

1736 And Dear Friends as we have ever Since We were a People maintained Our Christian Testimony against Tithes, and forced Maintenance of Ministers, as Contrary to the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation, We cannot but repeat Our Earnest Exhortation that Friends every where stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free; And beware of Burthening their Own Consciences, by a mean Submission to an antichristian Yoke of Bondage thrō fear of Suffering: A Meek and Quiet Spirit under Temporal Inconveniences for the Sake of our Christian

Testimony

1736 Testimony is One of the best proofs of our Sincerity therein, and may be a means of Effectually recommending Us to the Compassion of those Whom God has placed in Authority over Us, to whose Hands He has committed the Power of giving us Relief and from whom it Becometh Us to Seek it with Humility and Patience.

1737

1737 This Meeting being Informed that Friends in Several Parts of this Nation are in the Practice of Calling on their Members to bring in an Account of their Sufferings for their Testimony against that Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, &c; and to Enquire whether such as Bring in no Account, Do Stand Clear in their Testimony which having had a good Effect, It's therefore recommended that Friends thro the Nation fall into the said Practice, and if they find any Deficient, and persist in the Same that such Friends be Dealt with pursuant to the Directions, and former Advice of this Meeting, and particularly in 1733†, and those Recommended therein. —

† See p. 373. & 374. & p 173

You have been often Reminded of the Importance of our Ancient Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, and as you are Convinced in your Consciences of their Inconsistency with the Nature of the Gospel Dispensation it's certainly your Necessary Duty to act agreeable to such Convictions; and if Sufferings for your Testimony shall be the Consequence of your Obedience therein, 'twill become you, after the Example of the Primitive Christians, Chearfully to Submit and to take Joyfully the Spoiling of your goods, that so you may preserve a Conscience void of Offence toward God, and at the same time by your Christian

meekness

1737 Meekness and Innocent Deportment, give reasonable Evidence of your Sincerity to Men.

See Trading.

1738

1738 We therefore tenderly Exhort all who Profess the Truth, to Watchfulness and Zeal, that this Branch of Our Christian Testimony be not laid wast by Connivance, or Private agreement with Priests or Impropriators; — But that all abide Patient Under that Testimony which the Lord hath called us to bear, not doubting but that the Gradual Progress of real Christianity will at Length Operate to the Removal of a Yoke so Directly Contrary to the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

1742

1742 See Questions, page, 272.

1744

1744 See Questions, page 273.

1750

1750 Whereas it appears that the Method of taking the Priests Demands, Without Warrant, or due form of Law, prevails more in Some Places than heretofore; Friends are therefore intreated to be as much upon their guard, as Possible, against the Introduction of any Practices that may tend to Encourage Unfaithfulness or Collusion, a Disposition altogether Unbecoming the Nobility of Truth, and Inconsistent with the Uprightness it Requires.

N° 48 Concerning Tombstones.

1717

This Meeting being Informed that Friends in Some Places have gone into the vain and Empty Custom of Erecting Monuments over the Dead Body's of Friends by Stones, Inscriptions, Tombstones, &c and being very Desirous Friends Should keep a Com-mendable Plainness and Simplicity in this as well as other respects; It's therefore the Advice of this Meeting, that all such Monuments as are already in being over Dead Body's of Friends should be removed as much as may be with Discretion and Conveniency: And that none be any where made or set up by or over the Dead Bodys of Friends, or Others in Friends Burying Places for time to Come.

Trading.

N° 49. Concerning Trading.

1675

1675 Advised that none Trade beyond their Ability, nor Stretch beyond their Compass; and that they Use few words in Dealings, and keep their words in all things, lest they bring through their forwardness, Dishonour to the Precious Truth of God.

1688.

1688 Advice, Not to Launch forth into Trading and Worldly Business beyond what they can Manage honour=ably, and with reputation among the Sons of Men, and so that they may keep their words with all Men; and that their yea may prove yea indeed, and their Nay may be nay indeed, for whatever is Otherwise Cometh of the evil One: And such who make themselves guilty by thus dishonour=ing God, and the holy Profession of his Name and Truth, such are for Judgment by the Truth, and the Judgment of Truth ought to be set over them that the Truth and those that abide and walk in it may be clear of their Iniquities.

1692

1692 It is advised and Earnestly Desired, that the Payment of Just Debts be not Delayed by any Professing Truth, be=yond the time promised and agreed upon, nor Occasion given of Complaint to those they deal with, by their back=wardness of Payment where no time is Limited, nor any to overcharge themselves with too much Trading and Com=merce beyond their Capacities to Discharge a good Con=science towards all Men; and that all Friends Concern=ed Be very Careful not to Contract Extravagant Debts to the Endangering the wronging Others and their Families, which some have Done to the

grieving

1692 grieving the hearts of the Upright; Nor to break their Promises Contracts or agreements in their Buying or Selling, or in any other Lawful affairs, to the Injuring themselves or Others, Occasioning Strife Contention and Reproach to Truth and Friends: And it is advised, that all Friends that are Entering into Trade, or that are in Trade, and have not Stock Sufficient of their Own to Answer the Trade they Aim at, be very Cautious of Running themselves into Debts without advising with some of their Ancient and Experienced Friends among whom they Live, and more Especially such Trading as hath it's De=
=pendance on Sea Adventures.

1697

1697 See plainness, page, 223.

1702

1702 We earnestly Desire that all professing the Blessed Truth with Us, be very Careful to keep their Words & Promises, by paying their Just Debts without Unrea=
=sonable Decay, and do Justice to all Men, for Righte=
=ousness Sake, and to prevent the great Reproach and Scandal of Defrauding any Persons by Breaking in their Debts, or otherwise Injuring any.

1703

1723 Advised, that all Friends be weighty & Circumspect in their Conduct & Management of their Outward Affairs, and Careful to keep within Compass of their own Substance, to prevent failures & Breaches.

1708

1708 To prevent the Great Scandal and Reproach which any Professing Truth may bring on it, by Breaking in Other Mens Debts; we remind you to Exercise a Godly Care therein, as much as in you lies, by giving timely Caution to any such as

either

1708 either break their Promises, or Delay the Payment of their Just Debts, or otherwise render themselves Suspected.

1709

1709 Truth leads all who Faithfully follow it to do right & Justice to all, and not Defraud or wrong any, in any way of Commerce, Trade, Trust, or Dealing, much less to put any abuse upon the Government &c.
See Things & Governours, page, 129.
Also the advice in 1703, again Recommended.

1710

1710 Considering the great Suffering that hath been brought upon Truth & Faithful Friends, by divers Professing Truth amongst Us, breaking their words, Promises & Obligations to the great Injury of Others, by not paying their Just Debts in due time, and the sad Consequences thereof and Reproaches brought thereby; Notwithstanding our great Care, and many warnings given for the prevention thereof, which being too many to recite here; We refer you to the Advice formerly given by our Ancient Friend and Brother G: F: to Shopkeepers Merchants, Factors or any other Friends, Which this Meeting hath thought proper to Recommend unto you in Print, and Advise that it be read in your Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, As you may see Occasion, at Least once a year.

1720

1720 Let all Promises and Obligations for Payment of Just Debts be truly kept and Performed.

1724

1724 'Tis Earnestly Desired, That all Friends every where be very Careful to avoid all inordinate pursuit after

1724 after the things of this World, by such ways and means as depend too much on the Uncertain Probabilities of hazardous Enterprizes, but rather Labour to Content themselves with such a plain way and manner of Living as is most agreeable to the Self Denying Principle of Truth which we Profess, and which is most Conducive to that Tranquility of mind, that is requisite to a Religious Conduct through this Troublesome World. — and the advice in 1710, Repeated.

1727

1727 'Tis earnestly Desired that all Friends be very Careful not to Run into Larger Trading & Business than their Capacities and Abilities can well Answer; and that they may frequently inspect their Circumstances and do not Live at an Expence beyond them: And if through Adverse Accidents any should fail in paying their Just Debts, and should after his or her Composition with his or her Creditors, be so far Blessed & prospered in their Affairs, as to be capable of paying their Deficiencies; It is the earnest Desire and Advice of this Meeting that they do not Omit the Same, It being agreeable to the Command of the Gospel, and Common Justice among Men. — See Negroes, page 203.

1728

1728 Forasmuch as repeated Occasion hath been given of great Grief and Affliction to Friends which hath Caused the way of Truth to be evil spoken of, by the Launching out of Divers under Our Profession too far into the Affairs of this World, to their own hurt & the Reproach of the Society, and wronging other persons of their Just Properties: We Recommend great care And Circumspection to all Friends in this Respect, and in particular do refer to the advices

in

1728 in the Yearly Epistles 1710, and 1724. and last Year; and do desire Friends at their several Monthly Meetings, to Use their Utmost Endeavours, by a watchful Eye, to prevent, as much as in them lies, all such unjust Practices and Scandals.

1729

1729 Notwithstanding many are the good and wholesome Advices, which in former Years have been recommended from this Meeting, Exhorting to faithfulness and Perseverance in all Godliness and Honesty; Yet to Our Grief We find there are fresh Instances of great Shortness in coming up in the Practice thereof, particularly by some Injurious Defrauding their Creditors of their Just Debts, and not performing their word and Promise; which have occasioned Grievous Complaints; Wherefore We Desire & Intreat, when any such Occasion of Reproach shall be,— that whatsoever Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof it may happen, they do not fail Speedily to set Righteous Judgment on the head of the Transgressor.

1730

1730 See Meetings for Discipline, page, 171.

1731

1731 See Conversation, page, 60.

1732

1732 We find it Our Duty to remind Our respective— Members of the Remarkable Uprightness & honesty of Our Friends in the Beginning, in their Commerce and Converse; how Exact were they in performing their words and Promises, without Evasive Excuses and In—sincere Dealings! How careful not to Involve themselves in Business which they Understood not, nor had Stock of their own to Manage! How Circumspect not to Contract greater Debts than they were able to

pay

1732 pay in due time / which brought great Credit and Reputation to Our Religious Society: But with Sorrow we Observe, that Contrary to their Example, and the Repeated advices formerly given by this Meeting, particularly in the Years 1729 & 1731. against an Inordinate pursuit after Riches; Too many have Launch-ed into Trade and Business above their Stocks and Capacities, by which Unjustifiable Proceedings, and high Living, they have Involved themselves and Families in Trouble and Ruin, and brought Considerable Loss upon Others, to the great Reproach of Our holy Profession.—

We therefore Recommend to Friends in their respective Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, to have a Watchful Eye over all their Members, and where they Observe any Deficient in Discharging their Contracts, and Just Debts in due time, so as to give Reasonable Suspicion of weak-nefs or Negligence, that Friends do Earnestly advise them to a Suitable Care, and Necessary Inspection into their Circumstances in Order that they may be helped: and if any Proceed Contrary to Such Advice, and by their failure bring open Scandal & Reproach on the Society, that then Friends Justifiably may, and Ought to Testify against such Offenders.

1735

1735 Again, Dear Friends, We Esteem it our Duty to renew our former Advices, that Friends Every where take Dili-gent care to prevent, as much as Possible Persons Profes-sing with Us Defrauding their Creditors of their Just dues, to the great Scandal and Reproach of our holy Religi-on by timely Admonishing and Cautioning all those of our Society, who by Delays in Payment, and break-ing their Words and Promises give reasonable Cause of Suspicion that their Circumstances

are

1735 are Desperate; Advising all such to Inspect their Accounts, and give up their Effects in time, in Order to make the best they can to their Creditors; which will most Conduce to their own Peace, and Credit and Reputation of Our Christian Society; — But if any thro' Ambition or Desire of Grandeur in the World, shall reduce themselves to Insolvency after having been thus plainly Cautioned and Dealt with, According to the Nature of the Offence, and pursuant to the Advices of this Meeting in the Years 1728 and 1732 to which We refer you, then the Society will Justly be Clear of reproach arising from the Misconduct of such. — A Care of this Nature, We earnestly Recommend, not only to Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, but also that Friends in their private Capacity watch over, advise and Caution, One another when ever they Observe any real Occasion for it.

1737

1737 As some Reproach and Scandal have been brought upon our Religious Society, by some bearing Our Name falling Short of answering their Just Debts, and others Professing with Us being Unfaithful in bearing a Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, Notwithstanding the Several wholesome advices given from this Meeting to the Contrary: We Declare it to be the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting, That no Person who shall fail as aforesaid, Ought to be Admitted to act in Meeting for Business, Or Join with Friends in Collecting for the Poor and the Service of the Church, Until they have made Satisfaction to the Monthly Meeting they belong to, and done what is in their Power, to take of the Reproach they

have

1737 have by their imprudent Conduct brought on
Our Christian Principle. —— ——

See Conversation, page 64.

1738.

1738 See Conversation, page 65.

from page 198

1770 We also desire that you would take into consideration whether it might not prove Advantageous to our Society to have at Each General meeting a Select meeting both at the Begining and End of every such meeting and a Committe appointed to have the oversight of Such meetings and make Report to the Select Meeting then in being and also to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders annually at Newport

And as to the matter Referred from the Quarterly meeting of Rhode Island concerning what Transgression or miscondut ought to be Judged likely testified against either by the meeting Or the Parties Offending, it is our Judgment That the first Paragraph in the book of Discipline under the head Discipline Page 11 Is a Sufficient Rule in that case if attended to

So

And as to the other Reference from said Quarterly Meeting whether it be not an Inconsistancy in some Conduct in Allowing their Members to undertake To Join People in Marriage after the maner of the World it is our Judgment that it is an inconsistancy and it is the mind of this meeting that if any Member be found in the Practice thereof for the Future he shall be dealt with as a Transgressor

1771 As to the affair brought from Nantucket desiring this meeting advise whether one Child Either father or mother being a member Entitled

1774 Entitles their Children to membership
It is our sense and judgment that the Chil-
dren of such parents as are married among
Friends shall be looked upon as members; and the
Children of such Parents as become members
By application shall likewise be looked
upon as members Provided the Parents
Make application whilst their Children were
under their care and behaved orderly
And that where but one of the Parents is
A member either Father or mother become so
either by application or otherwise their
Children shall not be looked upon as members
unless their father or mother Professing with
us make application to the monthly meeting
On account of their Children and then the
Monthly meeting Judge whether such
Children be suitable to be admitted or not
And it is advised that where it so happens
That but one of the Parents are members
Of our Society that they Endeavour to bring
up their Children Agreable to Truth as far
As in their Power and not Neglect to ask
The care of Friends in behalf of their Children

This meeting being under a Weighty Concern for Friends
Who are or may be brought under Sufferings
are

1774 . . . Difficulties from the Circumstances of this Land or manner
of our Religious Testimony to appoint our Friends a Com-
mittee who are Desired to take Cognizance of all Grievances
Arising amongst us wherein any Friend or Friends may be
Affected either in Person Property or in Regard to our Reli-
Christian Testimony aforesaid and to advise Counsel and
Assist as best wisdom may direct and they are desired to
Meet once a month or oftner if need be That seven of
said Committee Constitute a meeting Which may transact
act the Business thereof and that any agrieved Friend
or Friends may apply to them either in a Collective or
Seperate Capacity as the Circumstances of the case may
Require and that said Committe in a meeting Capacity
Draw on the Treasurer of this meeting for the monies
That shall be Necessary for the Purpose aforesaid who
Is ordered to pay the same And that this Committe
View and Judge of Manuscripts Proposed to be Printed
And Correspond with the meeting for Sufferings
Philadelphia or Elsewhere

1777 The following Explanation of the minute
of 1774 is Instituted It is the Sense and
Judgment of this meeting that all Children
That are born of Parents while they are in
Members shall be looked upon as members
And no others unless Parents who had Children
Before they were members apply on their
Behalf and the monthly Meeting to which they are sub-
ject also where but one Parent is a member
Either Father or mother such Parent Professing
With us may make application to the monthly
Meeting on behalf of their Children and than

Discipline

1777 The monthly meeting Judge whether such Children are suitable to be admitted as Members or not; And it is advised that where it so happens that but one of the Parents are members of our Society that they endeavour to Educate their Children agreeable to truth as far as in their power and not neglect to ask the care of friends in behalf of them

No. 50 Concerning Wills.

1691

1691 Advised, that Care be taken in each Monthly Meet=ing, that Friends who have Estates to Dispose of by Will or Otherwise, be particularly Advised to make their Wills or Settle their Estates in due time, to prevent the Inconveniencies, Loss & Trouble that may follow upon their Relations and Friends, and Injury to the Poor, thro' their Dying Intestate; Delays and Omissions in this Case having been very prejudicial in divers respects.

1695

1695 The above repeated with this Addition—— Making such Wills in due time, will shorten no Mans Days; But the Omission or Delay thereof has proved very Pernicious to many, and Injurious to the Truth.

1696

1696 See poor, page—— 235

1703

1703 Knowing how Quickly many are Removed by Death 'tis weightily Recommended, that all Friends in time of Health, and Strength of Judgment, take care firmly to make their Wills, and to Dispose of their Substance, as in Justice & Wisdom may be agreeable to their Satisfaction.—

1705

1705 The advice in 1703 repeated.

1706

1706 See Orphans, page—— 211

1710

1710 This Meeting Recommends the visiting the Sick amongst

1710 amongst Friends timely, and See that they make their Wills in Due time.

1713

1713 Desired, that Friends will take Care that none do Unadvisedly bring themselves or Others into Suf=ferings, by Undertaking trusts or Executorships, where they cannot Legally Discharge that Trust.

1715

1715 Advised, That Trustees and Executors Concerned in Wills and Settlements do take Especial Care that they Faithfully Discharge their Respective Trusts, According to the Intent of the Donors & Testators And that all Charitable Gifts, Legacies, Bequests and Settlements of Estates, by Will or Deed, Intended and given for the Use of the Poor, the Aged, the Im=potent, or putting Poor Friends Children to Educa=tion, or Apprenticeships, may not be Appropriated or Converted to any Other Uses than such as the Donors and Testators have Directed and Enjoined them, by Legal Settlement, Will or Testament.

Ycarly Meeting

Nº 51 Concerning the Ycarly Meeting.

1672

1672 Agreed, That One or Two of each County, that are Concerned in the publick Service of the Truth in Each respective County do come up to this Meeting once a year; to be Chosen or Elected by the Quarterly Meetings of each County respectively for that purpose.

ycarly Meeting Constituted

And the publick Labourers to be here in the Same week, on the Second Day at Even at farthest.

That for the better Ordering, managing and Regula-=ting of the Publick Affairs of Friends Relating to the Truth, and the Service thereof; There be a General Meet-=ing of Friends held at London once a year, in the Week called Whitsun Week to Consist of Six Friends for the City of London

to be held at London in the Whitsun Week

Three for the City of Bristol.

Two for the Town of Colchester. and

Representa-=tives to be Chosen

One or Two from each County in England and Wales, to be Chosen at their Respective Quarterly Meetings next preceeding the said Week called Whitsun Week, and to be in London on the Second Day of that Week.

As many Friends that Labour in the Truth, as have freedom thereunto may be present at the said Meeting.

Ministers to be there

All others except such as are Nominated by the Quar-=terly Meetings, are Desired to forbear coming to the said General Meeting, Except such Friends as they when Met together shall see Meet to admit.

The said yearly Meeting of Representatives to Continue till further Order.

1673

1673 Agreed, that the General Meeting Consisting of Two Friends from each Quarterly Meeting about

publick

1673 Meeting of Representatives Discontinued

publick Business, appointed the 29th. of the third Month 1672, till further Order, be Discontinued till Friends in Gods Wisdom shall see further Occasion.

That the General Meeting of Friends who Labour in the Work of the Ministry do Continue as formerly Appointed

1677

1677 Revived

Then agreed, that the Yearly Meeting of One or Two from each County, as formerly agreed upon at a General Meeting in London, upon the 29th. of the third Month 1672, appointed yearly to meet about the publick affairs of Friends, some time in the Week called Whitsun Week, until further Order, and afterwards agreed to be Discontinued from the 21st. of the third Month 1673, till Friends in Gods Wisdom should see a further Occasion for it, be again Revived and begun this time Twelve Month, and then Friends to advise about the Continuance thereof, as they in Gods Counsel shall see Occasion.

1678

1678 Sufferings Information & Assistance

It is the Desire of this Meeting, That you would Nominate one or two Friends to come up the next Year at the Usual time, for the Service of Truth, and that they bring with them the total of the Sufferings of the foregoing Year not before sent up; and whatsoever else you Desire Information or Assistance in Let it be writ and Subscribed by some of your Meeting in the name of the rest: The End of this Meeting not being Limited to the Case of Sufferings, but Intended for the more General Service of the Truth, and body of Friends in all those things wherein We may be Capable to Serve One another in Love. The End & intent of the Meeting

1679

Yearly Meeting

1679

1677 Agreed, that Friends be Desired in their Quarterly Meetings respectively to take Care to appoint some Faithful Friend or Friends to attend this Meeting this time twelve Month as formerly.

N.B. Since this time it has annually continued.

1681

1681 Wales A Yearly Meeting in Wales agreed to be held about a Month before that of London. —

1688 &c —

1688 1690 1691 } See Representatives, annis, 1688, 1690, 1691, p. 301

1694

1694 Bristol Agreed that the Friends of the West of England may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship at Bristol.

1695

1695 Intent of yearly Meetings &c The good and Blessed intent & End of this, and all Our Assemblies, is, with the Lords Assistance, for his Honour in the Promoting and Maintaining of our Christian Society and Religion in Life and Practice in all the parts and Branches thereof.

1696

1696 See Epistles, page —— 113.

1697

1697 Women Publick Friends. Ordered, That such Faithful Women Friends as have a Publick Testimony, that are in the City at the time of the Yearly Meeting, may have their Liberty to Sit with their Ministring Brethren at their Second Days Morning Yearly Meeting for Worship.

Yearly Meeting

1698

1698 A Proposition that Friends may have a Yearly Meet-
=ing for Worship only for their Comfort, and to provoke
Nothern yearly Meeting One another to Love and good Works, for the Counties
of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire and Cheshire,
and any other Neighbouring Counties that are free to Join
with them, Consented to, until this Meeting shall Other-
=wise Direct, and upon Condition that it may not
Interfere with the Service and Power of this Meeting.

1699. See page 419.

1700

1700 See Representatives, page, 301.

1706

1706 See Questions, page —— 000

1707

1707 Agreed, that when this Meeting Directs the Morn-
=ing Meeting, or any other Meeting, to a Service, that
henceforth the said Meetings should be provided to give
an Account to the Next Yearly Meeting.

1709

1709 Representatives not to go out of Town before the
Meeting Ends. — See Representatives, p. 302.
And See Meetings for Discipline, p. 167.

1710

1710 It is the Desire and agreement of this Meeting,
that the Business and Concerns thereof, be Solidly in
Orderly Managing the Business the Fear of God, managed and Carryed on without
Contention or Striving, and with as few Words and in
as pertinent Expressions to the matter in hand as may
be, for Expedition of the affairs thereof without Loss
of time, or any ways Disordering the Meeting; But
One at a time Speaking and Standing up; that all
things may be done Decently and in good Order.

1718

1718 Friends are reminded that the Intent and holy Design of Our annual Assemblies, in their first Constitution, was for a great and Weighty Oversight & Christian care of the Affairs of the Churches, pertaining to Our holy Profession and Christian Communion, that good Order, True Love, Unity and Concord may be faithfully followed and maintained among all of Us, as a peculiar People called and Chosen out of the World, and the Errors and Corruptions thereof, knowing also that Sincere Love & Union in General, will be a great Cause of Truth's Prosperity among Ourselves, and of the prevalency thereof over the World, and the spirit of it. — All which Seriously Considered, We Sincerely desire and Humbly Hope; That God will Graciously Please more and more to put into the hearts of Friends & Brethren to be Zealously Concerned, That Universal Love true Union, Peace & Concord be followed and maintained in all the Churches of Christ; and all the Contrary, as Enmity division, discord & Strife, watched against and Shut out forever; that the Power and peace of God may prevail and Rule in all our hearts more and more, whereunto we are Called in One Body, that the God of Love and Peace may be with Us forever which is the Earnest Desire and Travel of the Souls of all the Faithful.

the intent & Design of Yearly Meetings

1719

1719 Advised, that the Several Meetings do Commit the Epistles of the Yearly Meeting, whether Printed or Written, to the Custody of some Suitable and able Friend, to whom Friends may have recourse as Occasion requires; Or they may be read in Meetings at Suitable Opperunities.

See Meetings for Discipline, page 169.

Yearly Meeting

1720

1720 a Circular yearly meeting in the western Counties

By a proposal from the Yearly Meeting in Bristol, held the 16th & 17th Days of the Third Month last, sent by Samuel Bownas and Joseph Dibble, Desiring Liberty from this Meeting, to set up a Circular Yearly Meeting for Worship in the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Wilts, Worcester and Bristol; the first Circular Meeting to begin the second first Day in the Seventh Month next coming, at Bradford; — the said Proposal being taken into Consideration It is Agreed, That the said Circular Meeting may be held, Provided it be with these Restrictions; First that the Meeting be for Worship only; and Secondly, That the Time of holding the said Circular Yearly Meeting be in the Seventh month in every Year.

1731

1731 See Conversation, page, 60.

1732

1732 papers to be signed

It is agreed that all papers to this Meeting — from Halfyearly, Quarterly, or Monthly Meetings ought to be Signed in Such Meetings.

Choosing Cashiers

It is Agreed, that for the future, the Meeting for Sufferings shall nominate Six Friends out of their own Members, to this Yearly Meeting, in Order for this Meeting to Choose three out of them instead of those who are to go Out, to be Cashiers for this Meetings Stock; and that the Persons so Nominated be such as are Members of the said Meeting.

Yearly Meeting

1733

1733 method for choosing a Clerk

Agreed, That in Order to prevent Debate in the Yearly Meeting respecting the Choice of a Clerk that the Several Meetings that are Members of this Yearly Meeting, be Divided into Five Districts, as follows viz.t

North

Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Scotland.—

South

London, Middlesex, Surry, Sussex Kent — Hampshire, Berkshire. —

East

Essex, Colchester, Suffolk, Norfolk Norwich, — Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire & Ely, Huntingdonshire.

West

Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire Herefordshire — Worcestershire, North Wales, South Wales, ——

Midland.

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hartfordshire, Nottinghamshire Staffordshire.

And that a Clerk be annually Chosen by One of the said Districts, in the Course and Order that they do now stand.

And that as the Clerk for the Present Year is of the Nothern District, So next year one to be Chosen by the Friends of the Southern; and the year following by the East; and the Next Succeding Year by the West, and the Year after that by the ——

Midland

1733 Midland District And so on in a Continual Rotation, until the same shall be altered by the Yearly Meeting.

And in order that the Election of a Clerk as aforesaid, may be made in a Convenient manner. We think it will be proper that the Meetings Com-=posing the District on whom ~~as when~~ the Election for that year Doth fall, be first Called over, and the Names of the Representatives of such Meetings, be first Enter-=ed; and that they then Immediately retire into the Chamber, in Order to a Nomination of a proper Per-=son to propose to the Meeting for their Approbation as a Clerk for that Year.

Advice Concerning Deputing proper Persons to attend the Yearly Meeting; See Representatives page, 303.

1735

1735 Propositions to be in writing This Meeting Desires that all Propositions from any Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings, to this Meeting, be Delivered in writing, & Signed by Order of such Meetings.

2nd Days Morning Yearly Meet-=ing Ordered that the Second Days Morning Meeting which precedes every Yearly Meeting, do only Consist of Publick Friends, and such Friends as are or shall be, pursuant to the minute of 1727, appointed to sit in the Morning Meeting of London, or any other Meeting of Ministring Friends.

Conclusion of the Meeting It is agreed, that Immediately after the Finishing of the Business of this Meeting, there be a Seasonable Opperturnity for the Ministring Friends and Other Members, in the Wisdom of Truth, to Speak what may be upon their minds to mutuall Comfort & Edification and it is

ordered

1735 Ordered, That at such times, no Persons be permitted to stay in the Meeting, Except Publick Friends, Represen=-tatives and Correspondents: — After which it is a=-greed that a Publick parting Meeting be held.

1736

1736 Ordered that all Letters Directed to the Yearly Meeting,
Letters Except from such Meetings as regularly Correspond ~~therewith be perused~~ by a Committee, who are to Consi=-der and report whether the same be proper to be read in the Meeting or not

1742

1742 See Questions, page — 272.

1745

1745 See Appeals, page — 4

1746

1746 See Representatives, page, 303.

1750

1750 This Meeting Observing with great Concern, a Deficiency in Divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting; some being Represented but by One Friend; and One without any Cannot but strongly Re=-commend an Observance of the Minute in 1728, which Directs that not less than Four Friends Should be Ap=-pointed for Each County, that in Case of Sickness or O=-ther Accident, there may be a Sufficient Number to answer the Service of the Meeting, by the want of which the Business is too often Obstructed.

* See Representa=-tives p. 302

1699. Omitted in pa: 414

1699 Declared that it was and is the Intent of this Meeting that those Meetings which are or Shall be held yearly in any of the Counties or places in England Distinct from this Meeting be only for Worship

Worship; also that they Continue only from Year to Year, entirely Subject to the Advice of this Meeting.

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode Island it was agreed and Concluded that the following Method for Constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders, Should be here added. ——

method of constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders

1st — That in Each Monthly Meeting some Solid Friends of either or both Sexes be appointed for Each particular Meeting as Elders, to have the Oversight of the Ministry, and to Advise and Counsel Both the Ministers at home, and such who Travel amongst them, as they in the Wisdom of Truth may See Necessary.

2nd That the Ministers in Unity and Elders so Appointed within the Compass of Each Monthly Meeting, meet by themselves once in three Months and wait to feel their minds Seasoned with the virtue of Truth, and then read the Queries, and make Diligent Enquiry into the State of their Members and form such Answers thereto, as appears agreeable to their States the said Answers to be Signed by their Clerk, And some Friends Appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders therewith, where the Queries are again to be read and Answered, and at the Quarterly Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting that General Answers in Writing be Drawn up and transmitted from thence to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders by Friends appointed to attend the Same and that the Ministers in Unity and Elders appointed as above Directed Shall be only deemed proper Members of said Meetings.

3d

1760 3d: That where any Friends come forth by way of Publick Ministry that the Elders and those of Expe=rience have a tender Care over them and after a— suitable time of tryal if their Conversations be clean and Blameless and Friends are Convinced that the Lord hath called them to that Weighty Work, That then the Monthly Meeting to which they belong Do Recommend them to the Quarterly Meeting of Mi=nisters (by a Minute signed by the Clerk) and that they then may sit in the Meetings of Ministers & Elders.—

428

Lottery

1760 This meeting being under a Weighty Concern
On Account of the prevailing Evil amongst
Divers Professing with us of being Concerned in
Lotteries this meeting therefore can do no less
Then Earnestly Recommend to the Several
Quarterly and monthly meetings that they do
Advise such of their Members who have been
Concerned any ways therein that they do desist
From the Practice for the future

428 Testimonies

1760 It is Recommended to the Quarterly and monthly
Meetings to appoint Suitable friends to Draw
Memorials of the living Services and Dying Sayings
of ministers Elders and other friends whose lives
were Remarkable for true Piety and faithfulness
With the time of their birth and Death as near
As may be with a Distinction between ministers
Elders and others and where they lived and that
Such Collection be Inspected by Each Quarterly
And monthly meeting and from thence sent the
Up to This meeting to be Recorded